

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

**Dutch dates**  
How Holland's painters changed the course of art

**Self help**  
The homeopathy "king" arrives in Britain



**Dark knights**  
Consider the political pressure upon Becker's murderers  
**Holding court**  
Rex Bellamy reports from the US tennis Open at Flushing Meadows

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio £2,000 prize was won yesterday by Mrs Patsy Woodward, of Overton, City. Portfolio list, page 18. How to play, back page Information Service.

## Search for oil moves to estuaries

The Government is to allow oil exploration drilling in the Solent, the Humber estuary, and in Liverpool Bay as part of its campaign to open up previously unexplored areas for potential oil and gas development. **Page 2**

## Cosmonauts set space record

Soviet cosmonauts set a space endurance record after spending 212 days on board the orbiting space station Salyut 7. A Soviet official said the mission was in its closing stages. **Page 7**

## Lloyd's loss

Lloyd's, the London insurance market, announced an underwriting loss of £43.5m - its first in 14 years - for the accounting period ending in 1981. **Page 19**

## Caring families

Families still undertake the lion's share of caring for the old and the severely handicapped, the National Council for Voluntary Organizations said. **Page 3**

## Honest Fabius

M. Laurent Fabius, France's Prime Minister for seven weeks, offered no miracle cures, no soothing words in his first press briefing. Austerity is to stay. **Page 5**

## Ministers flee

South African Cabinet ministers who tried to tour a riot-torn township near Sharpeville retreated before hundreds of blacks who blocked the road. Earlier report, page 7

## Dearer driving

Motorists could face a 10 per cent rise in car insurance premiums later this year, the chairman of the Lloyd's Motor Underwriters' Association said. **Page 3**

## Lloyd beaten

John Lloyd, of Britain, was beaten 7-5, 6-2, 6-0, by Jimmy Connors in the quarter finals of the US open championship in New York. Earlier report, page 24

## Leader page, 13

Letters: On liberation theology, from Dr G. Mercer, and Fr J. F. Wellington; industrial doubts, from Mrs Shirley Williams; Yalta, from Sir Bernard Braine, MP. **Page 13**

## Leading articles: Freemasons, Acid rain, Spain and EEC

Features: pages 18-22. What hope for the miners meeting with the coal board? The Poles raise Sikorski's ashes; the two-year-old row over Irish terrorist shootings. **Page 18**

## Spectrum: Tribute to Graham Greene, part 2, Friday: Page 2

Obituary, page 14. Arthur Schwartz, Miss Dora Labbette, Mr Leonid Kostandov, Donny MacLeod. Operation Lionheart is under way. A Special Report looks at today's Army. **Page 15-17**

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## Motoring

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# Pit peace process expected to resume on Sunday

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

The two sides in the 26-week coal strike are expected to hold a fresh round of peace talks on Sunday after further diplomatic manoeuvring yesterday to clear the obstacles to a meeting.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, sent a new letter of invitation to leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers which dropped the taboo words "uneconomic pit closures". That appeared enough to break the deadlock.

But the board will still insist on discussing "the real issues at the heart of the dispute", Mr MacGregor added. The board has indicated that it wants a settlement based on the July 18 "final offer", which would allow the closure of big loss-making pits.

The union said last night that a "very positive response" had been sent to the coal board letter.

A copy of the board's discussion document was sent with a hand-delivered letter to Brighton where union leaders are attending the Trades Union Congress. The letter, signed by the industrial relations director, Mr Ned Smith, said: "We sincerely hope you will agree to attend on this basis."

It went on: "It has always been our wish to obtain a reasoned settlement to the

dispute, to end the hardship and division within the industry, and we hope at our meeting on Sunday night you will be prepared to consider this objective based on the movement by the board contained in the attached discussion document last considered in July."

**Coal board letter** 2  
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The miners originally insisted that they would talk only on their own terms, outlined in a letter from their general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, to the board.

With this call for withdrawal of the March 6 colliery closure programme, the keeping open of five "test case" mines and withdrawal of the insistence on closing shutting "uneconomic pits", the agenda is evidently more open.

The board's discussion document lays down three tests for defining what is an exhausting pit. Two out of the three categories - those with no more coal and those with serious safety problems - are already agreed, but the third is still a stumbling block to a settlement. The board wants an agree-

ment that a colliery which has no further minable reserves which are workable and can be beneficially developed should be deemed exhausted.

The miners refuse to accept that and argue that where there is coal which can be developed, at whatever cost, the pit must remain open.

In his letter Mr Smith rejected union claims that the coal board had violated the 1974 Plan for Coal by seeking the closure of four million tonnes of capacity, the equivalent of 20 pits and 20,000 jobs.

He related the recent history of investment in the industry and pointed out that on average only 1.7 million tonnes of capacity had been closed each year, whereas the plan allowed for the shutdown of between three and four million tonnes.

Mr MacGregor said at a London press conference that the letter to Mr Heathfield had been couched in "diplomatic terms" but that the main problems remained. He added: "We have no desire to continue a long correspondence; we want to sit down at the bargaining table."

Mr Smith said that he was more optimistic that a settlement could be reached because. **Continued on back page, col 4**



Adrian Walton and his mother Sheila. (Photograph: John Voos).

## Heart boy greets the world

By David Cross

Britain's youngest surviving heart-transplant patient walked to a bench in the sunshine outside Harefield Hospital yesterday and told the world that he felt fine and loved being a celebrity.

Adrian Walton, aged 14, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, who had his operation 12 days earlier, bit his lip apprehensively as he was wheeled out of the hospital by his father, Mr Ian Walton, aged 39, to meet more than 50 reporters and photographers. He relaxed visibly when he sat between his father and mother, Mrs Sheila Walton, aged 40, to discuss his operation and hopes.

He is living with his parents in a rented flat near the hospital where doctors can keep a close eye on him as he recuperates. He said he spent most of his time walking around as much as possible, watching the news on television and eating.

He enjoys his controlled diet, which includes dishes such as cottage pie, brown bread, and margarine, and Weetabix. Sweets, particularly toffee, are not allowed yet.

Adrian, wearing a grey track suit, said that he had no fears about the operation. "I had a pain in my leg and thought it would be gone," he commented philosophically.

He missed his grandparents and his best friend - and his younger sister, Justine, aged 13, "sometimes".

He was particularly looking forward to watching his favourite football team, Manchester United, on television on Saturday.

He was not looking forward. **Continued on back page, col 3**

## Horizon raises cost of holidays by 20%

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Price increases averaging 23 per cent of next summer's package holidays to Spain were announced yesterday by Horizon Travel, Britain's third-largest tour operator and the first to bring out brochures for summer 1985.

A typical £250 holiday to the most popular destination for Britons will go up by £57.50, bringing the cost of a two-week holiday for a family of four close to £1,000 taking into account child discounts but not pocket money.

Horizon's average price increase in its new brochure is a fifth. Greek holiday prices are up only 14 per cent, narrowing the gap between Greek and Spanish holiday prices, although Spain is still the cheaper destination by around £20 a holiday.

Portugal holiday prices are up by less than 10 per cent, Italy by 12 per cent, Yugoslavia by 11 per cent and Malta by 6 per cent.

Other big tour operators, like Thomson Holidays, Intasun Leisure and Cosmos, have already warned of increases averaging about 20 per cent. Spain's hotel tariffs have risen by 18 per cent and sterling is down against the peseta by 15 per cent in a year. Airline costs have also risen.

Horizon's price guarantee leaves scope for charging up to 10 per cent more for a holiday if aviation fuel costs rise. It is widely expected that other tour operators will modify no-strings, no-surcharge guarantees in a similar way.

The question is how far this first benchmark from Horizon for 1985 price increases will stick. Thomson, due to bring out its summer 1985 brochure later this month, and particu-

larly Intasun may choose to put pressure on Horizon.

Horizon is leaving itself an option to reprint its brochure later in the booking season, said Mr Ken Franklin, managing director. "It is unlikely there will be any growth in next summer's foreign package holiday market but I am not anticipating any decline. Even with the average increase, overall 1985 holidays will, taking inflation into account, be cheaper in real terms than those in 1982," he said.

One indication that Horizon may be pitching its increases somewhat high for the market



came from Thomas Cook Holidays which has not yet finalized its prices for summer 1985 but Spanish price increases may be just under 20 per cent.

The other question tour operators will face, especially if more holidays are offered, is whether price increases will turn more holidaymakers to a break in Britain.

## Acid rain curb 'could add 10% to electricity costs'

By John Young

Reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions from power stations would have to be paid for in substantially high electricity prices, the Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday.

Its warning came in reply to a report by the all party Commons Environment Committee which is highly critical of the board's failure to take action to curb acid rain and describes some of its evidence as "trite and evasive".

The report emphasizes the threat not only to the natural environment, in particular rivers, lakes and forests, but also to historic buildings - including Westminster Abbey, Lincoln Cathedral, York Minster and St Paul's.

Although it received a predictably warm welcome from environmental groups and from the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, there was surprise in some quarters that

the committee had come to such forthright and categorical conclusions.

The CEBG described the report as extreme and largely out of step with other recent findings. The committee appeared to have made fundamental errors of fact and had failed to grasp that severe damage to city buildings would be due to local pollution sources because power station emissions were spread evenly across the country.

The board repeated its commitment to act on acid rain once the evidence justified it. But it added that the reduction of emissions represented a multi-billion pound programme, which could increase electricity bills by up to 10 per cent and even then prove ineffective.

MPs appalled, page 5  
Leading article, page 13

## Soviet military chief replaced

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Kremlin last night removed Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov from the post of Soviet Chief of Staff and Deputy Defence Minister.

He is to be replaced by Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, one of his senior deputies.

There was immediate speculation that the surprise move was linked to a Politburo reshuffle. A Tass announcement said Marshal Ogarkov, aged 67, was being transferred to another post, but did not make clear if this meant he was being promoted or demoted.

Diplomats said it was possible the marshal, one of the Soviet military's most brilliant officers, would become Minister

of Defence in place of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the 75-year-old senior Politburo member. However, they also noted that Marshal Ogarkov had been relieved of his duties as Deputy Defence Minister, and that Marshal Ustinov appeared in full uniform, yesterday at the lying-in-state for Mr Leonid Kostandov, the Deputy Prime Minister who died in East Germany on Wednesday.

A demotion for Marshal Ogarkov would indicate an upheaval both in the armed forces and at senior political levels. The marshal played a key role in the SALT I negotiations with the United States and, more recently, bore the political brunt of the Korean

airliner disaster almost exactly a year ago.

The new Chief of Staff, Marshal Akhromeyev, is 51. He also played a part in Moscow's attempts to explain the destruction of the Korean airliner. He is a career officer and rose to become Deputy Chief of Staff.

Marshal Ogarkov, who became Chief of Staff in 1977, has occasionally clashed with other senior officers over the future of Soviet weapons development.

Marshal Ogarkov believes Russia should concentrate on high technology armaments.

He has also differed with Marshal Ustinov over nuclear war, which in 1981 he declared to be winnable but subsequently described as futile and suicidal.

## Gromyko and Shultz to meet in New York

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, will meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in New York on September 26 while there for the United Nations General Assembly session, the State Department said yesterday.

It will be the first encounter between the two since they met in Stockholm in January during the European security conference.

Yesterday's announcement was expected. Mr Shultz had said previously he hoped to meet Mr Gromyko during the UN meeting.

## Dali consents to life-saving operation

From Richard Wigg, Barcelona

Salvador Dali, the 80-year-old Catalan painter who was seriously burnt while in bed asleep at his twelfth century castle home last week, gave his consent yesterday to an operation after doctors had said that otherwise they would not give him 48 hours to live.

He gave a heroic fit from his bed in the Pinar clinic to a Barcelona notary who had been specially summoned, amid growing controversy over the care given to the old man by three friends who had been looking after him. The painter has been living in seclusion in Pubol Castle, near Girona, and has been in poor health since



Señor Dali: Old friends

his wife, Gala, died more than two years ago.

A team of six surgeons prepared for an operation yesterday evening or early today, which they said would be

long and difficult. They planned to remove the burnt skin, which was threatening to turn septic, and replace it with artificial tissue.

Plastic surgeons guarded the door of the painter's room on the fourth floor of the modern private clinic, King Juan Carlos and Señora Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, have been telephoning to inquire into the condition of Señor Dali, who since the death of Picasso has been regarded as Spain's greatest living painter.

A magistrate has begun an investigation into the causes of the fire at the castle, which the Civil Guard has blamed on an electric short-circuit.

The controversy surfaced last weekend when doctors who

had examined the painter for the first time outside the castle declared he had been suffering from chronic malnutrition.

This had revived longstanding complaints about Señor Dali's seclusion, which prevented old friends from visiting him. Xavier Cugat, the musician, together with a well-known art critic and a writer friend of 30 years' standing have publicly demanded an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the castle fire.

Señor Miguel Domenech, Señor Dali's lawyer since 1980 and one of the three friends who have been caring for him, has replied that he will cooperate with any inquiry into conditions at the castle.

## Sales of Times overtake Guardian

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The circulation of *The Times* has risen above that of *The Guardian* for the first time for six years. Unofficial figures for August show that the average daily sale of this newspaper was 461,000, compared with 453,000 for *The Guardian*.

The print run of *The Times* is now at its highest level in the newspaper's 200-year history and comes at a time when there is increasingly fierce competition at the top end of the market.

Industry observers point out that the sale of *The Times* has increased substantially since the introduction of the stock exchange game, Portfolio.

However, Mr Arthur Brittenden, a spokesman for the newspaper said circulation had been growing steadily and was simply accelerated by the introduction of the game.

Mr Brittenden said: "What has encouraged us is the fact that we have retained these extra readers. The danger is having attracted new readers, if they don't like what they see they go away again."

*The Guardian* has also been gaining sales according to Mr Jack Allen, its circulation manager. "We are making good progress and turning out an excellent paper without the use of gimmicks," he said.

The biggest circulation quality newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, had seen its sales reduced by 31,000 on the year to 1,330,000, according to the unofficial statistics.

Newspaper executives believe that *The Times* has taken readers from the *Telegraph* rather than *The Guardian*. But Mr Hugh Lawson, general manager at the *Telegraph*, said there was no evidence for such a conclusion.

The increasingly competitive atmosphere among "the quality" coincides with a tooth-and-nail battle at the popular end of the market with the recent introduction of million pound budget competitions.

Several Fleet Street newspapers are also experiencing industrial problems. *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday lost the whole of its London print run after some members of Sogat walked out in protest at its lack of involvement in new technology plans.

The newspaper had appointed two oversers to coordinate the change to photocomposition, who were members of the rival union, the National Graphical Association.

Sogat demanded more involvement or the creation of two extra jobs. Mr Lawson said last night that two more posts had been created and the union had accepted the settlement.

*The Financial Times* has also experienced considerable disruption this week losing between 60,000 and 90,000 copies of its 217,000 UK print run.

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## Oil drilling licensed close to shore in four estuaries

By Jonathan Davis

Oil exploration drilling is to be allowed in the Humber estuary, the Solent and Liverpool Bay, the Government announced yesterday. The new move is part of the Department of Energy's continuing campaign to open up unexplored areas of Britain for potential oil and gas development.

Licences to undertake seismic surveys and drill for oil in the Solent, the Humber and the Dee and Mersey estuaries were awarded yesterday to Shell U.K., the U.K. subsidiary of the

Anglo-Dutch multinational oil group. A fourth licence covering an area at the mouth of the Solway Firth, opposite Workington, was also awarded yesterday to a group of smaller independent oil companies, which have recently been conducting seismic surveys onshore in Cumbria.

Earlier this year the Government decided to give BP the right to drill in the Firth of Clyde. This is believed to be the first time however that oil

companies have been allowed to drill in English estuaries, or so close to shore.

The Department of Energy said yesterday that, because of the special environmental and navigation considerations involved, stringent conditions had been imposed on the licensees. These would cover where the companies were allowed to drill, what time of year they could drill, and a requirement to respond immediately to any oil spill.

In addition, the companies are being required to maintain close consultation with bodies such as the Nature Conservancy Council, local fishery committees, local authorities and port authorities.

A spokesman for Shell U.K. said that it was too early to say when drilling would start in any of its licensed areas. "We have to do the seismic work first, and drilling will not be starting until 1986 at the earliest. It could be 1987."

Shell first applied for a licence to explore in the Solent five years ago, and for the Humber and Liverpool Bay areas in 1981. It said it had been told that it could not drill between the low and high tide marks, and was also being restricted to drilling only in the summer months between April and August.

It is too early to say whether any of the licensed areas will prove to contain oil or gas. Interest in onshore drilling has been heightened during the past few years, however, by a number of discoveries in Yorkshire, the east Midlands, Surrey and Sussex.

## Museum is asked for statement on drawings

By a Staff Reporter

The British Museum's failure to acquire 71 Old Master drawings at a bargain price from the Duke of Devonshire may have disastrous consequences for the future, directors of leading art galleries have said.

In a letter to be published in this month's edition of *The Burlington Magazine* today, the directors accuse the authorities of the British Museum of severely damaging "the mutual confidence which has made possible the transfer of many important works of art from private collections to public museums in Britain."

The directors appeal to the director and trustees of the British Museum to issue a full account of their dealings for the so-called Chatsworth Drawings. The 14 signatories include Mr Alastair Auld, director of the Glasgow Art Gallery, Mr Timothy Clifton, director designate of the National Gallery of Scotland, Mr Michael Diamond, director of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Mr Timothy Stevens, director of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool and Mr Michael Jaffe, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The drawings, which were part of a collection formed by ancestors of the Duke of Devonshire in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, were sold at auction by Christie's for a record £21.2m in July. But the Duke of Devonshire, who needed money to pay for the upkeep of his family's country seat, Peak District of Derbyshire, disclosed later that the British Museum could have had them for £5.5m.

The anger of art historians was compounded by the fact that several of the best works went to foreign buyers, including the Getty Museum in Malibu, California. Nevertheless the export of three drawings by Raphael, Rembrandt and Rubens has been blocked by the Government to give British museums a chance to raise enough funds to keep them in the United Kingdom.

## Support for Yard view on Masons

By Stewart Tandler

Two chief constables, Mr James Anderton of Greater Manchester and Mr David Owen of North Wales, yesterday united with Scotland Yard in advising police officers against joining or remaining members of the Freemasons.

The yard's view is that membership might render police impartiality suspect. The Home Office is likely to circulate the Yard's guidance to all forces, and the question of Freemasonry and the police is expected to figure at the two-day annual meeting of the Association of Chief Police Officers, which represents 280 of Britain's most senior officers, in Preston next week. It has not been included on the agenda, but is certain to be raised and may cause embarrassment, as a number of chief constables are known to be Freemasons.

Mr Albert Laughton, architect of the Yard's guidance, and Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police will be at the conference, together with Mr Anderton and Mr Owen, but yesterday Mr Laughton said that he would not raise the matter.

Mr Anderton said in a lengthy statement: "Doubtless a lot of silly and ill-founded nonsense has been said about Freemasonry, but the fact remains that as far as I am concerned that membership... having regard to its structures and practices is generally incompatible with membership of the police service."



Young gas victims using breathing apparatus yesterday.

## Pool fumes overcome children

From Our Correspondent, Leicester

Thirty schoolchildren were overcome by toxic fumes yesterday when a cloud of chlorine gas formed in a leisure centre swimming pool in Hinckley, Leicestershire.

The children were among 43 people taken to hospital suffering from the effects of the gas. The others were six firemen, three leisure centre staff, two teachers and two members of the public.

The gas cloud is believed to have formed when a tanker supplying the cleaning fluid

sodium hydrochloride sprang a leak during delivery. The chemical mixed with hydrochloric acid, which caused vapour to form and seep through into the swimming pool area.

The schoolchildren, all aged 11, from Mount Grace High School, Hinckley, were having their first lesson in the pool.

Some lost consciousness after being overcome by the fumes, but none is thought to be seriously hurt. They were kept overnight at the Nuneaton

Manor Hospital for observation and treatment for respiratory troubles and vomiting.

The area round the pool was sealed off by the police, and the gas cloud dispersed by firemen from Leicestershire and Warwickshire. The pool was drained and checked for any remaining pockets of gas.

The high school headmaster said that his pupils would continue to use the pool, if assurances were given that nothing similar could happen again.

## Greenpeace threat to atom shipments

By David Nicholson-Lord

Ships carrying nuclear and chemical cargoes in the Channel will be the target of a renewed campaign of "direct action" by the environment protection group Greenpeace during the next week. The move comes after the sinking of the freighter *Mont Louis* with 30 flasks of uranium hexafluoride on board.

As salvage operations continued yesterday on the French freighter, sunk off the Belgian coast after a collision with a cross-Channel ferry, Greenpeace announced that its vessel, the *Sirius*, will be leaving Amsterdam tomorrow bound for Ostend and Cherbourg.

The chief agent of the *Sirius* will be a shipment of plutonium reported to be leaving Cherbourg for Japan next Thursday. But the group also intends to visit the *Mont Louis* site and carry out unspecified actions against other vessels, using inflatable dinghies.

A spokesman yesterday said there would be no attempt to interfere with the salvage. "We don't want to do anything to get

in the way of the salvage firm because of the importance to the oceans of the work they are doing," he added.

On board the *Sirius* will be Mr Jim Slater, the general secretary of the National Union of Seamen. The NUS and Greenpeace have now been joined in their campaign for special marking of ships carrying dangerous cargoes and advance warning to coastguards by seamen's unions in Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and Spain.

The Dutch salvage firm, Smit Tak, has met fresh obstacles in its attempt to lift out the uranium flasks since work started last week. On top of heavy winds and high seas, operations have had to contend with six empty containers floating out of the hold, leading to fears that the uranium flasks might also break loose.

The containers were all retrieved but a lorry has also been found lying across the flasks and blocking operations. It was initially hoped that a start could be made on lifting out the barrels early this week.

## Inquiry call on dangers of asbestos

By Christine Toomey

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is to be asked to take an urgent look at the hazard of asbestos fall-out from fires.

This follows the huge asbestos fall-out from a north London fire at Crickehowood on August 24 which showered one and-a-half tonnes of asbestos debris over the borough of Brent.

"It is astonishing and very alarming that it was five days before this fall-out was identified and even then it was purely by chance," Mr Reg Fresson, the Labour MP for Brent East, said.

"We cannot undo the damage done but we must make absolutely sure it does not happen again."

Brent council yesterday authorized air tests in the borough and were satisfied that the level of asbestos dust did not exceed the permitted 0.01 fibres per millilitre of air.

However, there are no known safe exposure limits for asbestos

## Universities demand better A-levels

By Colin Hughes

Sixth-formers applying for university now need better A-level grades than they did four years ago, an annual report from the Universities Central Council on Admissions confirmed yesterday.

In each of the main 24 subjects, candidates needed better grades last year than in 1980. Across all 76 subject groups, candidates needed an average of one B and two Cs four years ago. Last year they needed an average two Bs and a C.

In some subjects, notably electrical engineering and computer science, the inflation in necessary grades was even steeper. For the former an average B and two Cs would have sufficed in 1980, but last year successful candidates averaged three Bs.

The figures also reveal that slightly more teenagers from less well-off backgrounds are applying and being accepted into university. Four years ago 3.2 per cent of successful applicants had parents in semi-skilled or unskilled jobs, but last year the proportion rose to 7.1 per cent.

Those proportions are, however, smaller than the proportions applying for places. Young people from better-off families still stand a far better chance of winning a place.

The council also emphasizes that the higher examination performance of candidates last year suggests that "marginal" pupils are no longer bothering to apply because reductions in university funding since 1981 have increased competition. *The Statistical Supplement to the Twentieth Report 1983-4* UCCA, PO 28, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

## Libyan minister meets MEPs

Mr Richard Balfe and Mr Alf Lomas, the London MEPs who helped secure the release of two British detainees from Libya last week, met Dr Treiki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, yesterday at the Maltese Foreign Ministry, Valletta, to relay British reactions and the wide spread offer of improved relations to him.

Meanwhile, the British Foreign Office confirmed that Mr George Anderson, British Consul in Tripoli, had taken the opportunity of an Islamic holiday in Libya to come to London for consultations.

## Police talks on pay package

A pay package aimed at solving the dispute between local authorities and police junior ranks over this year's award to 140,000 officers is to be debated by police negotiators next week.

The offer covers police officers up to the rank of chief inspector in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was placed on the table this week as representatives of chief constables and senior officers refused an offer of 4.8 per cent. Details of the latest award are being kept confidential.

## Caring dispute boys in court

Magistrates at Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan, have ordered the appointment of separate solicitors and a guardian to represent and advise two boys withdrawn from school by their mother in a dispute about care.

The boys, aged 14 and 15, have been kept from school for almost a year as a protest against corporal punishment. But the juvenile court bench refused the county education authority an order to take them into care. The hearing was adjourned until September 17.

## Police get loans to sue magazine

The Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, a senior officer and the district coroner are to be given £2,000 each by the county council to sue the satirical magazine, *Private Eye*, over an article about an inquest.

The council says the loans are offered to Mr Leonard Soper, Chief Constable, Supt Colin Eynon, Gloucester division commander, and Mr Russell-Jones, Gloucester district coroner, on condition that the money is repaid as soon as the action is over.

## Airman bailed on secrets charge

Wayne Kriehn, aged 21, an airman based with the RAF in Cyprus, was bailed unconditionally by Bow Street magistrates in London when he appeared accused of passing secrets useful to an enemy.

The court remanded three other airmen in custody until October 4. They were Christopher Payne, aged 24, Adam Lightowler, aged 21, and Geoffrey Jones, also 21. All are charged with Official Secrets Act offences.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$15; Belgium 10; Canada \$12; France 10; Germany 10; Greece 10; Hong Kong \$12; India 10; Italy 10; Japan 10; Korea 10; Malaysia 10; Mexico 10; New Zealand 10; Norway 10; Portugal 10; Singapore 10; South Africa 10; Spain 10; Sweden 10; Switzerland 10; Taiwan 10; Thailand 10; USA \$15; West Germany 10; Yugoslavia 10.

## Minister explains why gas deal was cancelled

The Government yesterday confirmed that it is to withdraw from a plan agreed with the Irish Government to pipe natural gas into Northern Ireland from the Republic.

Mr Adam Butler, Northern Ireland Industry Minister, said he was "bitterly disappointed" the deal could not go ahead but contended the project would not have been commercially viable for Northern Ireland.

The project, which would have cost an estimated £100m paid jointly by the Irish and British Governments and the EEC, was intended to pipe natural gas from the huge Kinsale field in the south-west of Ireland.

An agreement in principle was signed by the two governments last October, when the project hailed by both as the finest example of cross-border cooperation.

Britain has been long ex-

pected to pull out of the deal, and last month Mr Butler outlined the problems posed by proceeding with the plan.

In a long statement yesterday, the minister said his August statement had indicated that discussions with the Irish government had been held to explain the difficulties Northern Ireland faced in going ahead with the project.

"In the light of the outcome of these discussions, it is clear that it is not possible to reconcile the interests of both sides and that the project would not be economically viable for Northern Ireland," he said.

The Dublin Energy Ministry said that it regretted the decision, which would jeopardize the Northern Ireland gas industry. The Irish government had always been willing to complete the agreement under the terms of the previously signed memorandum of understanding, he added.

## The miners' dispute

## Move to private pits suggested

Restrictions on private sector coal mining should be removed and the National Coal Board should be split into autonomous areas which could eventually be sold to miners and private investors.

These are among the recommendations in critical report on Britain's energy policy published yesterday by the Adam Smith Institute, a right-wing economic "think tank" which seeks to influence government thinking.

The report says that the National Coal Board has failed "disastrously" to fulfil its statutory duties to produce coal efficiently and cheaply. Prolonging the life of uneconomic pits has cost the taxpayer billions of pounds, and domestic coal prices are still usually higher than world coal prices.

despite substantial government grants. The institute claims that the NCB, in spite of its statutory obligation to "secure the efficient development of the coal mining industry," has "never done everything to encourage the development of the private sector."

*Onsaga Energy Report*, (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ, £7).

The week-long trend of striking miners drifting back to work continued yesterday, leaving South Wales as the only area with no work in progress. In Scotland, the number crossing picket lines crept up to 223, the highest figure so far.

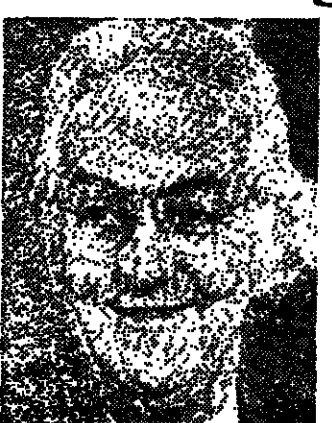
In the north Derbyshire coalfield the coal board reported that a further 17 men had decided to start work again.

## NCB denies violating coal plan

A letter sent yesterday by the coal board to Mr Peter Heathfield, NUM general secretary, said in part:

"We regard it as important in this letter to reiterate once again that the board's proposals put to all the unions on March 6 for a reduction in output were not in violation of Plan for Coal, as the NUM repeatedly assert. The Plan for Coal anticipated that in the decade up to 1985 capacity would be closed at a rate of between three and four million tonnes a year. The plan also envisaged that during the same period, of the order of 40m tonnes of new capacity would be constructed. As you will know, by the end of the year 1983/84 only 14m tonnes of capacity was closed, an average of 1.7m tonnes a year. During that period, however, 19m tonnes of new capacity was constructed and a further 24m tonnes was under construction which will come into operation within the next three or four years.

The great difficulty that beset our industry, in common with many other industries, was that the demand for energy envisaged in the plan fell short by about 10m tonnes of coal equivalent, and despite the fact that our industry maintained, indeed marginally increased, its share of the market, by



Mr Ned Smith, coal board industrial relations director, who signed yesterday's letter to the NUM.

the end of the last full year of normal operations, ie March 1983, there were 56m tonnes of coal in stock on this country including 28m tonnes held by the board. This was an all-time record stock, increasing at the rate of 8m tonnes a year at an annual cost in excess of £30m. As you know, output was reduced last year by four million tonnes with an associated manpower reduction which was achieved on an entirely

voluntary basis. The board's proposals made on March 6 at the request of all the unions in the industry was to achieve a further reduction in output of four million tonnes, bringing supply and demand into balance. Again it was envisaged that the associated manpower reduction would be achieved on a voluntary basis. Given that output and demand could have been brought into balance this year, it was the intention that we would jointly continue to attack the market and from a stable base of 100m tonnes of output begin to expand our sales. We find it difficult to understand how the events briefly outlined above can repeatedly be described by the NUM as a wilful breach of the principles of the Plan for Coal.

It has always been our wish to obtain a reasoned settlement to the dispute to end the hardship and division within the industry, and we hope that at our meeting with you on Sunday next you will be prepared to consider this objective based on the movement by the board contained in the attached discussion document last considered in July. We sincerely hope that you will agree to attend the meeting on this basis. I confirm that the board team will be available for our meeting on Sunday evening.

## Troops exercise goes on despite dock strike

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

So far about 2,600 Servicemen have left Britain for the Continent, unimpeded by the docks strike, to participate in two military exercises.

They are the vanguard of about 72,000 men who will make the crossing in the next 10 days. Of these about 56,000 will go to Exercise Lionheart in West Germany and more than 15,000 to Exercise Bold Gannet in Denmark.

At Hull, whose port is on strike, about 400 men have left without interference by pickets. One Army officer said yesterday that at ports such as Southampton dockers were very well disposed towards the Services.

They had worked marvelously during the Falklands conflict and he thought it was unlikely that they would wish to interfere with troops moving to Lionheart and Bold Gannet.

So far the Government has taken no policy decision on what line would be taken if troops were confronted by heavy picketing, but it is clear that they would not be required to force their way through the pickets.

Because of the rundown in the size of the British merchant

fleet, 23,000 of the soldiers travelling to Lionheart by sea will have to do so in ferries also carrying civilian passengers.

It is understood that the only company to offer the Army the exclusive use of ships was the Danish company, DFDS, and the Army has chartered several of its vessels for the exercises.

Immingham dockers yesterday brought relief to the beleaguered Southport steelworkers by agreeing to load iron ore at the port into lorries.

The loading of lorries by non-union labour started the first national dock strike six weeks ago, after Aslef train drivers had refused to cross a miners' picket line on a railway bridge.

The 4,000-ton Swedish-owned cargo ship *Stena Grecia* yesterday became the first victim at Felixstowe of the dock strike, because of any action by the dockers, who unloaded her.

The ship was prevented from sailing afterwards by her own crew, members of the National Union of Seamen, who staged a 24-hour stoppage in support of the dock strike.

Army special report, pp 15-17



Allies: Mr Kinnoch with Mr Livingstone and the other candidates, (left) Mr Ken Little, Mr John McDonnell and Mr Lewis Herbert yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

## Labour would revive GLC, says Kinnoch

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnoch, leader of the Opposition, said yesterday that a Labour government would resurrect the Greater London Council if Mrs Thatcher and her ministers abolished it. He made his strongest statement yet in support of the council at a meeting to support Mr Ken Livingstone and other Labour candidates in GLC by-elections.

He made it clear that a Labour government would restore all the controversial

powers of the present council. The only difference might be in the way the powers were administered. "There will be no dilution," Mr Kinnoch said. "The only difference may be in improvements in current practice that we can see."

Mr Kinnoch's intervention in the London by-election campaign contrasted with his frosty approach to the leaders of the GLC last year. After speaking yesterday Mr Kinnoch posed cheerfully for photographers

with Mr Livingstone and the other three Labour candidates in the elections to be held on September 20.

He defended the GLC grants policy which has been cited by critics of the council as a prime reason for abolishing it. "London needs the GLC so that there is a city-wide democratically accountable body with the responsibility and the means to give pump-priming support," Mr Kinnoch said.

## Loneliness of priests 'a problem'

By Clifford Longley

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, admitted yesterday that loneliness was a serious problem for Roman Catholic priests.

"I think any bishop has to be very aware of the danger of priests suffering from loneliness - which is different from feeling lonely - and that this does constitute a problem. But it is not a problem confined to our age," he said.

Cardinal Hume was attending the National Conference of Priests, in Birmingham, which had received a survey indicating considerable personal unhappiness among Britain's 5,000 Roman Catholic parish clergy.

In an interview in the course of the conference, Cardinal Hume said: "Loneliness is a problem for priests, but I wonder whether it is any more of a problem for a lot of people living in the world. You can be lonely, even in a family."

"But it is a very real problem," he said. Priests tended to live alone more than before and were so busy that they had less time for friends.

## Crossword finalists square up

By Sheila Beardsall

Mr Tony Sever, a computer systems consultant from Ealing, will be trying to regain his title in the Collins Dictionary/Times Crossword Championship at Park Lane Hotel, London, on Sunday.

The 1,000 entrants in five regional finals have been whittled down to 18 who compete for an Edinburgh crystal bowl and £500 of Harrods gift vouchers.

Mr Sever, a former winner, was second last year.

Mr James Atkins, also a former winner, is through to the finals, as is Mr Wilfrid Miron, sixth last year.

Mr Miron, aged 71, of Halam, Nottinghamshire, a former director of the National Coal Board, won the Leeds regional final.

Mr Terry Gladstone, a mathematician who plays bridge and won the Bristol regional final, will be making his sixth appearance in the national final.

Competitors will try to compete four puzzles within half-an-hour each. The contest starts at 1.30 pm, admission £2.



## Murder trial court sees police video film of family stabbing aftermath

From Peter Davenport, Durham

The bloody scenes encountered by the detectives who first entered the home of Mr Basil Laitner and his family were shown at the trial of Arthur Hutchinson yesterday.

A ten minute section of a police video film was played before the six men and six women of the jury and 50 members of the public and press, on the third day of the trial at Durham Crown Court.

Two 26 inch colour television sets were put up in the wall of the court, one facing the judge and the other in front of the dock where Mr Hutchinson sat handcuffed between two prison officers.

Mr Hutchinson, of Kelsco Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland, is accused of murdering Mr Laitner, a Sheffield solicitor, his wife Avril, a doctor, and their son Richard, aged 28, at their home in Dore, Sheffield, after a wedding reception for their daughter, Suzanne, on October 23 last year.

He is also charged with unlawful sexual intercourse with Miss Nicola Laitner, aged 18, and with aggravated burglary. He denies all the charges.

The film opened with a shot of the outside of the Laitners' house in Dore Road, a village suburb of Sheffield. The camera then showed the wooden stairs where the body of Mr Laitner, his striped pyjamas stained with blood, lay face down where he had fallen after the prosecution alleges, being stabbed to death by Mr Hutchinson.

The film showed blood staining the green stair carpet and, according to Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for the prosecution, footprints in the blood.

Earlier in the case the court was told that Miss Nicola Laitner, aged 18, the only member of the family to survive the attack, had been forced to walk past her father's body, trailing her foot in his blood, before being raped in the garden-marquee where the wedding reception had been held.

Earlier the court heard evidence from the first people to arrive at the Laitner house after the killings, Mr George Wordsworth and Mr David Weatherall had come to dismantle the marquee. They

heard Miss Laitner scream, and called the emergency services.

Mrs Suzanne Wolfe, aged 24, the Laitners' elder daughter, told the court of the last weekend she spent with her family. She said that she travelled to the family home from her job as a school teacher in the Mile End district of east London on the Friday before the wedding.

She and her brother, Richard, travelled together by train and their father met them at Sheffield station at about 7.30 pm, taking them home for what was to be their last dinner together.

"My mother was very keen for the five of us to have dinner together because when I was married things would be different", Mrs Wolfe said.

The meal finished before 9.30 pm, when she went to her bedroom to mowrap wedding presents. During that time her mother, father and brother came in and out of the room but she did not recollect her sister Nicola being present.

On Wednesday it was alleged on behalf of Mr Hutchinson that he had met Miss Laitner in a Sheffield public house on the Friday night and that she had invited him back to the house that weekend. Miss Laitner denied the suggestion.

Mrs Lucy Broomhead, proprietor of the lodging house in Sheffield where Mr Hutchinson is said to have stayed, using the name Patrick O'Keardon, told the court that he was absent from his room on the Sunday night when the murders took place but returned the next morning at 8 am.

The young addicts spent hours at lunchtime and after school working on the computers, and can arrive at school up to two hours early to play with the machines.

Often they are pupils with family difficulties, or with trouble building friendships, and their computer addiction appears to make these situations worse, teachers say.

They report that the addicts club together in small cliques and become selfish about their specialist knowledge, refusing to share it with other pupils. Yet the educational benefits of their obsession seem doubtful, their teachers suspect.

The researcher, Ms Margaret Shotton, is in the early stages of interviewing people who say that their lives have been disrupted and damaged by computers. Most are adult males with microcomputers at home, but Ms Shotton has also been sought out by teachers worried about the problems among schoolchildren.

Another success in the fight for cheaper air fares on Europe was announced yesterday with 25 per cent cuts in the lowest fares to Switzerland.

These follow cuts in fares between Britain and Holland, Germany, and France in recent months and Mr Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways last night promised "more to come".

The new low fares, offered by both British Airways and Swissair from October 15, are £88 return to Basle and Geneva (29 off) and £92 return London to Zurich (£30 off), on certain off-peak flights only, and the traveller must stay overnight on Saturday.

Nearly a quarter of a million drivers - the highest recorded figure - were stopped by police for roadside breath tests last year, and a third of them gave positive samples. The figures, disclosed by the Home Office yesterday, showed an increase of 18 per cent over the number of roadside breath tests in 1982.

From May 6, 1983, when the Intoximeter evidential breath tester was introduced to the end of the year, 74,300 people were asked to give breath samples at a police station, 16,300 failed to do so. Eighty two per cent of those tested were found to be over the legal limit.

Nissan moved up to fourth place, increasing its share to 7.6 per cent. There is evidence to suggest however that considerable numbers of Nissans were registered by dealers in the last few days of August to qualify for bonus payments based on registration figures.

Ford maintained its leadership with 28.6 per cent, followed by Austin Rover with 15.3 per cent and General Motors with 14 per cent.

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Rural rides: Mrs Lucinda Green (left), Mr Colin Wares and Mrs Linda Laidig-Stavin of the United States in the Burghley Reiny Martin Horse Trials at Stamford, Lincolnshire (Photographs Harry Kerr). Report, page 25.

## Children at risk of computer addiction

By Hilary Wilce of The Times Educational Supplement

Many children are at risk of becoming computer addicts at school and those in greatest danger are children with social problems, according to research at Loughborough University.

The young addicts spent hours at lunchtime and after school working on the computers, and can arrive at school up to two hours early to play with the machines.

Often they are pupils with family difficulties, or with trouble building friendships, and their computer addiction appears to make these situations worse, teachers say.

They report that the addicts club together in small cliques and become selfish about their specialist knowledge, refusing to share it with other pupils. Yet the educational benefits of their obsession seem doubtful, their teachers suspect.

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## Airlines to cut flight costs to Switzerland

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## Roadside breath tests at record level

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## Family life is going strong, report says

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The image of the British family as falling apart, failing to care for its elderly and disabled and being mollycoddled by the welfare state is a myth, the National Council for Voluntary Organizations said yesterday.

In a report compiled from evidence from 64 voluntary organizations, the council says that the myths that the young are delinquents, that working women neglect their children, that single parents are immoral and that the old are no longer respected are dangerous and divisive. They provide an excuse for doing nothing when money is restricted, when more resources are needed to encourage self-help among families.

The report says that families still undertake the lion's share of caring. Only 5 per cent of those aged over 65 live in institutions. If just 1 per cent of families caring for an elderly person refused to carry on and asked for residential care, the cost to the state of health care would rise by 20 per cent.

Eight out of ten severely handicapped children under 15 and four out of 10 severely handicapped adults live with their families and for the less severely handicapped the figures are much higher.

The report argues that more day centres, a "carer's allowance", "granny-sitting" and respite schemes would help families to cope better and lead fewer to resort to residential care.

The image of one-parent families as mostly young unmarried mothers is also a myth, the report says. While women make up 90 per cent of one-parent families, only 16 per cent are single, with 34 per cent divorced, 22 per cent separated and 17 per cent widowed.

Marriage is still important, the report says. More than 90 per cent of women marry compared with 70 per cent in mid-Victorian times. Three out of 10 first marriages and four out of 10 second marriages end in divorce, and the report says that divorce is still difficult, painful and often leaves people poorer, with 80 per cent of divorcing parents saying they needed special family courts and mediation outside the court room. Better counselling services might prevent as many as half of divorces, according to the director of the London Marriage Guidance Council, the report says.

Ask the family, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 1JH; £2.95.

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## Body found in car boot at airport

By Michael Horsnell

The badly decomposed body of a man believed to have been shot has been discovered by police in the boot of a car at Gatwick Airport.

Detectives believe the man, identified as James Rufus Sargeant, aged 28, was killed elsewhere and dumped in the boot on August 25.

The dark red saloon, registration number GGC 646T, was parked on level 3, car park.

The murdered man, said to be a part-time doorman at clubs near his home in Reigate, Surrey, had borrowed the Volkswagen car from his girlfriend two weeks ago.

Det Supt Douglas Cheal, who is in charge of the inquiry, said Mr Sargeant was last seen alive on the night of Friday, August 24, when he spent more than an hour at The Plough public house at Rusper, near Horsham, Sussex.

Mr Sargeant, who was single, was reported missing a few days ago by a relative. Thirty-five officers are involved in the murder inquiry and, for the first time, Sussex police are using a computer to help. They appealed for information on Crawley 31122.

Scotland Yard's serious crime squad has been a regular but uninvited guest at many register office weddings this summer.

It has been investigating the British end of a Continental and Ghanaian marriage racket involving Ghanaians in Germany or Holland.

By paying local drug addicts or alcoholics to marry Ghanaians in London using their names, they acquire a marriage certificate, which makes them eligible for German or Dutch passports, Det Chief Insp William Binnes told Acton Crown Court, London.

The scheme, probably organized from Amsterdam or Hamburg, was described when Frank Adjekuma, a Ghanaian aged 29, of Racoon Way, Hounslow, was jailed for eight months and recommended for deportation after being found guilty of two charges of perjury connected with two weddings.

Adjekuma was arrested at Acton Register Office on June 11 with two German women and three Ghanaians. He was about to marry one of the women under the name of Joseph Asomaa, said Mr Oliver Sells, prosecuting.

It emerged he married the other woman that morning.

## Hearse with body driven at 102 mph

A driver who was dismissed after being caught driving his employer's hearse at 102 mph with a corpse in the back, claimed unfair dismissal at an Industrial Tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday.

Mr John Maule, aged 40, was banned from driving and fined £100.

The following day his employer, Mr Raymond Harrison, a funeral director, dismissed him because of the gravity of the offence, the tribunal heard.

Mr Harrison said Mr Maule had not told the Gosforth firm he had been stopped by the police while bringing a body from Manchester to Newcastle.

He added that Mr Maule had already had one warning after a previous speeding fine - again with a body in the hearse.

Mr Maule said he was speeding because his employers had told him to do the 260-mile round trip within five hours but his claim was dismissed by the tribunal.

**Rail seats pass**  
Passengers on overnight trains from King's Cross will have to reserve a seat by getting a boarding pass with their ticket. The scheme is aimed at preventing overcrowding on those services. British Rail decided yesterday to drop its previous plan to charge £1 for the seat reservation, which will now be at no extra cost.

**Rationing delay**  
The Welsh Water Authority decided yesterday for the fourth time to delay the introduction of water rationing for south-east Wales. Originally planned for September 17, rationing will now be put off for a further three days because of recent rain, provided that clogged filters can be by passed.

**Actor marries**  
John Hurt, the award-winning actor, aged 44, married Donna Peacock, aged 34, an American actress at Acton Register Office, London, yesterday. The couple celebrated by attending the premiere of his latest film, *The Hit*.

**Youth for trial**  
A youth, aged 16, was committed without bail to Kingston Crown Court yesterday by Reigate Juvenile Court, accused of beating and partially blinding Ian Weller, aged 10, of Redhill, Surrey.

**TV man dies**  
Mr Donny McLeod, a presenter with the BBC *Pebble Mill* at One television programme since 1973, died yesterday at his home in Aberdeen. He was 52. *Obituary, page 14*

## Ice cream trial jury told of gun attack

The jury in the Glasgow multiple murder trial yesterday heard a statement which one of the victims, Mr Andrew Doyle, an ice cream van driver, gave to the police after an alleged attempt on his life in February.

Mr Doyle, aged 18, and five other family members died in a fire at their home in April.

Det Constable John Anderson read the statement, which said: "About 7.50pm I was parked outside Balvany Street. I went to the back of the van to pick up some bottles which had

fallen over. Anne Wilson was sitting on crates at the front of the van. Anne shouted there were two guys and jumped into the back beside me.

"I heard a bang and then saw a hole the size of a football in the windscreen. There was a second bang.

Anne Wilson, aged 16, told the High Court in Glasgow that she had been helping Mr Doyle when a car drew up alongside them. "A guy jumped out with a machine gun and a shotgun.

Seven men deny a number of charges from wilful fire-raising to murder. Thomas Campbell, Thomas Gray, Joseph Steele and Gary Moore, are charged with the murder of six members of the Doyle family at their home in Bankend Street, Ruthven, Glasgow, on April 16.

Mr Campbell and Mr Gray, are accused with Thomas Lafferty and John Campbell of the attempted murder of Andrew Doyle and Anne Wilson. George Reid, is charged with assault.

The trial continues today.

## Motorists face 10% rise in insurance

A "substantial" rise in car insurance premiums was forecast yesterday, starting with an increase of between 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent later this year.

The warning came from Mr Peter Suttle, chairman of Lloyd's motor Underwriters' Association, who said that one of the main reasons was an alarming rise in theft, vandalism and other crime.

Reporting a final 1981 profit of £38m for Lloyds' motor insurance business, Mr Suttle said profits would be more difficult to achieve in 1982 and 1983, and preliminary figures for 1984 were "very disappointing".

Because of crime insurance premiums for fire, third party and theft cover were likely to rise, particularly in urban areas of high unemployment, and for vehicles not kept in locked premises overnight.

New car sales last month fell to 303,552 compared with the August 1983 record of 375,000. Higher interest rates, the metal workers' strike in Germany and the dock strike in July were blamed for the fall.

Japanese manufacturers made the best showing, improving their share from 10.2 per cent a year ago to 13.7 per cent, but only by supporting their dealers with unusually big discount incentives.

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# Time is money

The Woolwich 90 Day Account gives you 9.46% net p.a. equivalent to 13.51% gross for basic rate taxpayers.

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## Acid rain report

## 'Appalled' MPs demand pollution control

By John Young

The Commons environment committee is "deeply disturbed" by Britain's policy on acid rain and "appalled" by lack of monitoring of the damage done to buildings by corrosion.

The absence of serious research has been "a major failure", and evidence given by the Central Electricity Generating Board seemed "vague and evasive", the MPs say in a report published yesterday.

Britain's policy appears to be that the case for controls is not proven and that those controls which have been approved are not cost-effective, the report says.

"We firmly believe that the Government's present position pays too little heed to the weight of scientific evidence in Britain and in Europe that sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons emissions are separately and in conjunction destructive to any natural and built environments", it says.

"That position is accelerating the destruction of our cathedrals. It is destroying fish life. It is placing many of our most outstandingly beautiful areas at quite unacceptable risk. Controls must be introduced as soon as possible."

The United Kingdom has become increasingly isolated by its refusal to legislate to reduce sulphur and nitrous oxide emissions, the report says. It acknowledges that the Government, in parliamentary answers and in response to invitations join those countries committed to a 30 per cent reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions between 1980 and 1993, has rightly cited the fact that emissions in the United Kingdom have fallen by 37 per cent since 1970.

"However, in 1970 the United Kingdom was, and in 1984 still is, the largest producer of sulphur dioxide in Western Europe."

The CEGB, although the biggest burner of oil and coal in

Britain, has made practically no reduction in its emissions. By building tall smokestacks it has lessened the pollution close to power stations but has caused it to be transported over long distances to ecologically sensitive rural areas.

Britain is the principal foreign depositor of sulphur dioxide in Scandinavia, the report asserts. By 1990 it will be the biggest single polluter of Swedish forests and lakes, and already it deposits 50 per cent more in Norway than any other country.

The fact that ozone has emerged as one of the primary suspects for tree damage in German forests was cited by the CEGB and by motor manufacturers as a reason for not controlling their nitrous oxide emissions, the report observes.

"We are unsure whether this was the product of ignorance or a deliberate attempt to mislead us," it says. "Ozone pollution is the consequence of nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons. No significant reductions have been taken to control emissions and no significant reductions have been recorded in the United Kingdom, the MPs say."

The committee, which heard evidence from government departments and quangos, local authorities, industry, scientists, water authorities, environmental groups, trade unions, doctors, farmers, architects and surveyors, concentrates primarily on damage to buildings and vegetation and on the increasing acidification of lakes and rivers. Among the buildings damaged by acid rain, it claims, are Westminster Abbey, Lincoln Cathedral, York Minster, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster.

**Acid Rain. Fourth Report from the House of Commons Environment Committee (Stationery Office, £5.55).**

Leading article, page 13

Sulphur dioxide: estimated emission from fuel combustion							
By type of consumer (million tonnes)							
	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1982	Percentage of total in 1982
Domestic	0.37	0.35	0.28	0.26	0.22	0.20	5
Commercial/public service	0.31	0.26	0.24	0.23	0.20	0.17	4
Power stations	2.87	2.78	2.69	2.61	2.57	2.55	66
Refineries	0.26	0.30	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.21	5
Other industry	1.75	1.59	1.42	1.28	1.05	0.76	19
Rail transport	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	<1
All consumers	5.64	5.35	4.96	5.02	4.57	4.04	100

Nitrogen oxides: estimated emissions by source (thousand tonnes)							
By type of fuel							
	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1982	Percentage of total in 1982
Domestic	51	53	50	52	51	51	3
Commercial and industrial	470	449	419	405	338	309	19
Power stations	731	722	770	808	851	789	46
Incineration and agricultural burning	8	8	12	12	12	12	1
Road vehicles	282	272	279	303	316	318	19
petrol engine	158	168	168	176	176	172	10
diesel engine	48	77	41	42	40	35	2
Railways	18	18	18	18	18	18	1
All emissions	1,728	1,716	1,739	1,796	1,785	1,666	100

Sources: Warren Spring Laboratory, Department of Trade and Industry.

## Police improve ways of treating public

By Stewart Teggler

London police officers are to be trained to improve their handling of members of the public on a course which includes techniques such as self-awareness.

The course, already used for new recruits to the Metropolitan Police, was introduced after the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton riots in 1981.

Known as advanced skills training, the course is intended to improve interviewing techniques. Officers examine how situations are handled and are taught to respond with better judgment.

## Home study kits will teach new technology

By Stella Beardall

A new training concept was launched yesterday to enable employees and private individuals to learn the latest technological skills without going to college.

Southtek was devised by Mr Cive Hewitt, head of the learning resources department at Brighton Polytechnic, who saw the need for people to gain up-to-date knowledge in the changing world of computers and high technology.

His project will provide training in such subjects as basic digital electronics, fault finding and computer-aided design, packaged so people can learn at work or at home at their own pace.

It was launched by Mr David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, which has given a setting-up grant of £1.7m to be administered by East Sussex County Council. When the grant runs out, Southtek's administrators hope it will be able to go independent.

The training packages will be devised by a staff of 30 at Southtek's headquarters in Brighton Polytechnic, with the help of outside specialists.



M Fabius: Technocrat capable of showing emotion

## Secret diplomacy denial

President Mitterrand attempted yesterday to play down the importance of his conversations with King Hassan during a three-day "private" visit to Morocco last week, expressing surprise at the suspicious voiced over his alleged "secret diplomacy" (Diana Geddes writes from Paris).

His meetings with the King were about the possible effects

on North Africa of the new treaty of union between Morocco and Libya, he said. France's policy in the area remained unchanged.

On Chad, Mitterrand indicated that France had no need for a mediator when the situation was so simple: France would leave the moment all foreign troops had withdrawn, he said, without actually mentioning Libya by name.

He spoke with a sincerity, clarity and even a certain hesitant humility that is rare among politicians. The brilliant technocrat, who has been accused of cold aloofness, showed he was capable of talking in simple, everyday language, without being condescending or simplistic, and that he could feel as emotional as the next man over things such as people losing their jobs, seeing striking car workers being bashed over the head by the police.

He also had ideas, notably on

## Prime Minister passes TV test

## Plain-speaking Fabius presses ahead with austerity policy

From Diana Geddes

M. Laurent Fabius, France's youngest Prime Minister for more than 100 years, appears to have passed with flying colours his first big public test since taking office seven weeks ago.

His performance during an hour-and-a-half's grilling by senior journalists on television on Wednesday night seems to have delighted most of the Government's supporters and upset its foes.

There was no high-flown language, no brilliant attacks on the Opposition, no glittering promises, no dramatic surprises, not even any soothing words about an imminent light at the end of the tunnel of the economic crisis. But M. Fabius gave the disillusioned French public what they now apparently want more than anything else — the truth, even if it was not, perhaps, always the whole truth.

He spoke with a sincerity, clarity and even a certain hesitant humility that is rare among politicians. The brilliant technocrat, who has been accused of cold aloofness, showed he was capable of talking in simple, everyday language, without being condescending or simplistic, and that he could feel as emotional as the next man over things such as people losing their jobs, seeing striking car workers being bashed over the head by the police.

He also had ideas, notably on

the severest problem facing the Government, rising unemployment. He had no miracle recipes, but he proposed to make a five-pronged attack on that "cancer", including an ambitious plan to ensure that very young person under 21 was

relaxation in the Government's programme of economic austerity. Despite the promised 5 per cent tax cut next year most people would continue to suffer a slight fall in their standard of living, he admitted, though the worst-off would be protected.

The Socialists believed in greater social justice and equality of opportunity, but hard work and merit should not go unrewarded, M. Fabius said. That was why the Government had decided to reduce taxes equally for everyone, including the rich. It had also decided to abolish the surtax on top salaries from 1986.

With those views and policies, would he not more properly be described as a "neo-liberal" rather than as a socialist, he was asked. "Liberal" in France refers to someone on the right. Deliberately side-stepping the question for fear of offending any potential recruits on the moderate right, M. Fabius replied in substance that the old right-left cleavage in politics was outdated.

In his view there were three distinct political groupings, not just two. There were those who believed in the state controlling everything; those who believed in a general free-for-all without any state interference; and those, including himself, who believed in an organized society which worked to reduce social inequalities. That last category he called "modern socialism".

There was no question of any

## Hongkong snag feared as deadline approaches

Peking (Reuters) — Britain and China appear to have hit a snag in negotiations on the future of Hongkong aimed at achieving an agreement by the end of the month on a handover of the colony.

After their regular two days of talks, the twenty-second round of formal negotiations between the two sides, they said yesterday another session would be held this month but did not set the date.

After two years they now have 24 days to settle remaining problems if they are to fulfil their announced intention of initiating an accord by the end of this month.

A joint statement described the talks as useful and constructive but the failure to set a date for the twenty-third round was highly unusual. In the past the sessions have been held every two weeks.

The British embassy declined to say whether the lack of a date meant the talks had run into difficulties.

But non-British Western diplomats said the fact a date had not been fixed showed there was still much to be done by a joint working group which is meeting daily behind the scenes to thrash out the remaining problems, including which passports residents will use. They would probably be scheduled only when the working group had settled whatever problems were outstanding.

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1 National Savings Deposit Bonds (bonds) are Government securities issued by the Treasury under the National Loans Act 1968. They are governed by the National Savings Stock Regulations and are subject to the Statutory Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force so far as these are applicable. The principal of, and interest on, bonds are a charge on the National Loans Fund.

**PURCHASE**  
21 Subject to a minimum purchase of £250 (see paragraph 2) a purchase may be made in multiples of £50. The date of purchase will for all purposes, be the date payment is received, with a completed application form, at the National Savings Deposit Bond Office, a Post Office transacting National Savings Bank business or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.  
22 A certificate will be issued in respect of each purchase. This certificate will show the value of the bond and its date of purchase. This certificate will be replaced on each anniversary of the date of purchase, and on part repayment in accordance with paragraph 52, by a new certificate showing the updated value of the bond, including capitalised interest.

**MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HOLDING LIMITS**  
31 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £250 in any one bond or more than £50,000 in one or more bonds. The maximum holding limit will not prevent the capitalisation of interest under paragraph 4.3 but capitalised interest will count towards this limit if the holder wishes to purchase another bond. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder and interest on such bonds will not count towards the maximum limit. Bonds held by a person as trustee will not count towards the maximum which he may hold as trustee of a separate fund or which he or the beneficiary may hold in a personal capacity.  
32 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum initial purchase from time to time, upon giving notice, but such a variation will not prejudice any right enjoyed by a bond holder immediately before the variation in respect of a bond then held by him.

**INTEREST**  
41 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase up to the date of redemption. Subject to paragraph 4.2 interest on a bond will be payable at a rate determined by the Treasury, which may be varied upon giving six weeks' notice.  
42 The rate of interest on a bond or part of a bond repaid before the first anniversary of the date of purchase will be half the rate determined by the Treasury in accordance with paragraph 4.1, unless repayment is made on the death of the bond holder.

43 Interest on a bond will be capitalised on each anniversary of the date of purchase without deduction of income tax, but interest is subject to income tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue in respect of the year in which it is capitalised.

**REPAYMENT**  
51 A holder must give three calendar months' notice of any application for repayment before redemption but no prior notice is required if application is made on the death of the sole bond holder. Any application for repayment of a bond must be made in writing to the National Savings Deposit Bond Office and be accompanied by the current investment certificate. The period of notice will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the National Savings Deposit Bond Office.  
52 Application may be made in accordance with paragraph 51 for repayment of part of a bond, including capitalised interest, but the amount to be repaid must not be less than £50, or such other figure as the Treasury may determine from time to time upon giving notice. The balance of the bond remaining after repayment, excluding interest which has not been capitalised, must be not less than the minimum holding limit which was in force at the date of application. Where part of a bond has been repaid a new certificate will be issued and the remaining balance will be treated as having the same date of purchase as the original bond.  
53 Payments will be made by crossed warrant sent by post. For the purpose of determining the amount payable in respect of a bond the date of repayment will be treated as the date on the warrant.  
54 No payment will be made in respect of a bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

**TRANSFERS**  
6 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings will, for example, normally give consent in the case of devolution of bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

**NOTICE**  
7 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 3.2, 4.1, 5.2 and 8 in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes, it will as soon as reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

**GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS**  
8 Each bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the purchase date. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 until the redemption of the bond. The bond may be redeemed either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of 30 months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the holder before redemption, at his last recorded address, informing him of the date of redemption.

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Surname First names Mr/Mrs/Ms

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth Day Month Year

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly the names and addresses of all holders should be entered. The Investment Certificate and all correspondence will normally be sent to the first named holder (under 7 years old).

**NAME AND ADDRESS TO WHICH DEPOSIT BOND SHOULD BE SENT**

(Complete only if different from first address above)

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature Date

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly all the parties must sign above. Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here.



## Chile tense after days of protest

From Florencia Varas  
Santiago

The Catholic Church is taking legal action against those responsible for the death of the French priest, André Jarlan, who was shot in the working-class Santiago suburb of La Victoria, during two days of anti-government protests this week.

Witnesses, including several journalists, confirm that Father Jarlan must have been hit by a bullet fired by police at a group of people standing outside the priest's house. Father Jarlan was in his first floor bedroom.

The Minister of the Interior and the police have denied any part in the violence and have blamed the opposition parties, calling their leaders irresponsible for organizing the demonstrations.

The killing of the priest and censorship of the Catholic radio station, Radio Chilena, has created tension between the Government and the Church. The two days of protests were marked by violence, principally in the working-class areas surrounding Santiago. Eight people were killed.

A former Christian Democrat Senator, Agustín Garmino, told *The Times*: "There is a unanimous feeling that the only way of avoiding a civil war will be if the military, who have so far given their unconditional support to President Pinochet, realize what is happening. The events of last Tuesday and Wednesday are clear signs that Pinochet is seeking to become an absolute dictator."

## Reagan's ploy challenged

# Mondale warns of moral McCarthyism

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington



Mr Mondale, the Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday gave a warning of a rise in "moral McCarthyism" in the United States and challenged attempts by the Reagan Administration and the Republican Party to make religion a political issue in the election.

Addressing the international convention of the B'nai B'rith, Mr Mondale accused the Reagan Administration of opening its arms to zealots on the "extreme fringe" who seek government power to impose their religious beliefs on others. He said that for the first time in 25 years of public life he felt it necessary to defend his faith in a political campaign. "I refuse to permit my political opponents to divert the debate from the real questions facing our future by questioning my faith, my patriotism, or my family values," he told a largely sympathetic audience.

Mr Mondale was responding to recent attacks on him by right-wing religious organizations which are campaigning in support of President Reagan. He was also attempting to challenge attempts by the Republican Party to pose as the party of patriotism, traditional values and belief in God.

The relationship between politics and religion has become a big issue in the election

campaign ever since President Reagan told a prayer meeting in Dallas two weeks ago that religion and politics were necessarily related and that anyone opposing voluntary school prayer was intolerant of religion.

On Wednesday leaders of leading religious groups issued a statement urging both parties to oppose any efforts by the Government to interfere with the separation of church and state.

Aware that his remarks about religion could produce a backlash among voters, President Reagan yesterday sought to play down the controversy. Appearing before the B'nai B'rith convention two hours after Mr Mondale, the President emphasized that the constitution ensured there would never be a state religion in the US and ensured that every American was free to choose.

● NO JOKE: President Reagan has admitted he should not have joked during a radio microphone test last month about ordering the bombing of the Soviet Union (AFP reports).

In a letter due to appear in the September 24 issue of *Forbes* magazine, Mr Reagan writes: "Granted, I shouldn't have said it, even though I was sure I was saying it only to the several people who know me well and with whom I work."

"The damage, if any, was due to the worldwide press dissemination."



Damp but undaunted: Mr Mondale and his running mate, Ms Geraldine Ferraro, during a rainy campaign rally in Portland, Oregon.

## Hitler diaries forger denies Nazi link

From Michael Binyon  
Bonn

Herr Konrad Kujau, the Nazi memorabilia dealer who has admitted forging the Hitler diaries, said on his last day of testimony at a Hamburg court that he had nothing to do with Nazism and had never belonged to any right-wing movement.

He said, however, that as a collector it was quite natural that he should try on the

uniforms he obtained, but that did not mean he supported the aims they represented.

Much of Herr Kujau's testimony yesterday and on Wednesday centred on attempts to make sense out of the chaotic financial records he kept in order to find out how much money he had received from Herr Gerd Heidemann, the former *Stern* magazine reporter jointly accused with Herr Kujau of fraud. Herr

Kujau said he has often been paid not only in cash but in uniforms and other memorabilia.

Tapes were produced in court which Herr Heidemann had made of his telephone conversations with Herr Kujau. The reporter had told him he needed the tapes to prove the authenticity of the diaries to contacts of Martin Bormann, Hitler's former secretary. The trial resumes on Tuesday.

## Philippines rejects aid offers for victims of typhoon

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Philippine Government yesterday declined offers of international assistance to victims of a powerful typhoon which devastated central and southern provinces at the weekend.

Government radio and television reported 1,500 dead and widespread destruction. But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the situation was under control with relief and rescue operations well advanced.

The Office of Civil Defence rejected assistance offered by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation and the French offer of the World Assistance Corps, saying that the Philippines could handle the rehabilitation work.

Bodies were still being dug out from beneath the rubble of houses and buildings, and bloated corpses were retrieved from coastal waters and rivers four days after Typhoon Ike hit the region.

Ike, whose winds reached 137 mph, was the strongest typhoon to strike the country in 14 years. The trail of death and

destruction it left behind in a 36-hour rampage across seven main islands is believed to be the worst the Philippines has experienced since accurate typhoon records were kept.

Although the government figures exceed those compiled by a number of relief agencies, the Red Cross in Surigao del Norte, the worst-hit province on Mindanao island, estimated that at least one thousand people died in that province alone.

Scores of people were buried in mass graves on Monday when the provincial capital, Surigao, ran out of coffins.

At least 135 residents were killed when 90 per cent of the city's buildings and houses were totally or partially destroyed. Mr Rolando Geotina, the Governor, said.

The lakeside town of Mainit, 30 miles south of Surigao, was smashed when the lake broke its banks and giant waves crashed through houses killing 500, the Office of Civil Defence reported.

## Israelis set 45 free at Ansar

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut

The Israeli occupation Army in southern Lebanon reportedly released 45 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners from the Ansar prison camp yesterday to mark the Eid holiday, the end of the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

In an effort to improve embittered relations with local inhabitants - in an area where guerrilla attacks against Israeli troops still occur daily - the occupation authorities made a similar series of releases last year, with no marked effect on the security situation.

At least 770 prisoners are in Ansar, none of them legally charged, while an unknown

## Threat to put Ten in the dock

Brussels - The European Commission gave a warning yesterday that it could take the 10 EEC governments to court if they did not agree to let the cash-starved Community have more money this year (see Murray writes).

But the warning by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the budget commissioner, at a special session of the Council of Ministers was somewhat hollow because the EEC's legal machinery moves so slowly a decision to start the case could not be taken for two months, by which time the community would have run short of money.

## Damascus trip

Damascus (AP) - President Khamenei of Iran and President Assad of Syria opened a series of meetings yesterday during the first visit here by an Iranian President. Mr Khamenei is accompanied by his Foreign Minister and top military officials.

## Berlin ban

Berlin (AFP) - The three Western powers in West Berlin Britain, France and the United States - yesterday banned the neo-Nazi (NPD) from taking part in elections on March 10, next year. The party is not banned in West Germany where it has never won more than 1 per cent of votes.

## Chinese haste

Peking (AP) - The Chinese Government yesterday confirmed that the Communist Party's general secretary, Mr Hu Yaobang, had disclosed plans for a Central Committee plenum in October, and a full national party congress next year when he spoke to a Japanese newspaper executive on Wednesday. The congress will be two years earlier than expected.

## Fela arrested

Lagos (AFP) - The Nigerian musician Fela Anikulupo-Kuti has been arrested at the airport here under Nigeria's strict exchange control laws for allegedly attempting to smuggle out the equipment of more than \$2,000. He was about to leave for a trip to the United States.

## Tourist killed

Rome (Reuters) - A Dutch tourist was killed and another people were injured by a knife-wielding robbers in a dark alley under the Capitoline Hill here.

## Ozal balks at separate Bonn deal on migrants

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

Mr Ivor Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday appeared to rule out a bilateral agreement with Bonn to limit the number of Turkish workers entering West Germany after 1985.

Mr Ozal, ending a two-day official visit here yesterday, said the free movement of Turkish workers to West Germany was something that could be discussed only in the framework of the European Community. From January 1, 1986, Turkey's associate membership of the EEC will allow Turks to seek work anywhere in the Community.

Bonn is adamant that it will not allow any more Turks to join the £1,500,000 now in the country, whose presence is stirring increasing controversy at a time of high unemployment.

The Kohl Government is committed to halving the total of 4,500,000 foreigners living in West Germany, and during an eight-month period from last November offered heads of families DM10,000 (about £2,600) each to return home, with additional payments for wives and children. About 3,000,000 foreigners,

mostly Turks, took advantage of the scheme, and whole areas of German cities have been left empty by the exodus. In an attempt to induce Ankara to take steps to regulate any new migration to Germany, the Kohl Government has offered unprecedentedly generous credits and aid packages to Turkey.

They include a nuclear power station costing DM3bn, delivery of Airbus planes and a modern telephone system. Turkey receives more of Bonn's development aid than any other country except India.

Mr Ozal refused to comment on the controversial plans of Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Minister of the Interior, to reduce the maximum age at which foreign workers' children may join their parents in West Germany from 16 to six.

With a large number of Turkish opposition groups and exiles living in West Germany, there was a massive security cordon to protect Mr Ozal during his visit. Sharp protests against human rights abuses in Turkey were made by the Greens and Human rights groups.



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## Pretoria ministers inspect riot area

From Michael Hornsby  
Johannesburg

Three senior South African Cabinet ministers yesterday visited the riot-torn black township along the River Vaal, 40 miles south of Johannesburg, as negotiations continued between the residents and white government officials on the explosive issue of increased rents.

Violence in the Vaal Triangle area and in other townships on the East Rand, where rents seem to have provided the spark which caused educational and political grievances to burst into flame, has claimed at least 35 black lives in the past two weeks, and an unknown number of injured.

Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, Mr F. W. de Klerk, Minister of the Interior, and Mr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of National Education, made a helicopter tour of Sharpeville, Evaton and Sebokeng, the Vaal Triangle townships which saw the most serious unrest. The townships were reported to be more or less calm.

Discussions on the rent issue began on Wednesday between a Sharpeville delegation and officials of the Orange-Vaal Development Board after 3,000 of the township's residents confronted armed police and demanded to talk to the Government.



The ostensible cause of the rioting was the belief of the residents of Sharpeville and other townships in the area that a 5.90 rand (£3) rent increase had come into force on September 1. That provoked a stay-away from work and protest marches which turned violent when police tried to disperse them.

But because of a bureaucratic oversight, the rent increase had not been announced in time in the Government Gazette and had had to be postponed until October 1. No one, however, had bothered to inform the townships.

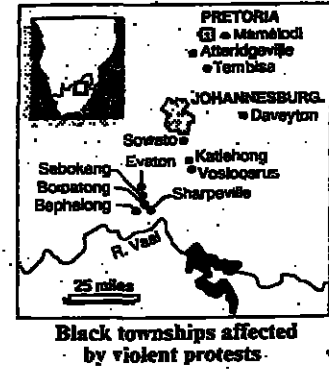
The rent increase, in any case, was only the final straw. Resentment over rents, which average between R50 and R70 a month, had been bubbling for a long time, against a background of sharp increases in fares and the basic foodstuffs which form a large percentage of black household budgets.

The Government argues that the increases in rents are needed to help to pay for sewers and electricity, which have been introduced only recently in many townships. Blacks say those are basic services which should have been provided long ago.

The Rev Frank Chikane, vice-president of the Transvaal branch of the United Democratic Front, the multiracial anti-apartheid alliance which led the campaign to boycott the recent Indian and Coloured elections, said yesterday that police were hampering attempts by community groups to get medical aid and food into the Vaal townships.

The Vaal Civic Association and the Evaton Ratepayers' Association were experiencing "great difficulty" in moving around the townships and identifying and assisting distressed families.

Rent rally: Sharpeville people march in protest.



## Nicaragua seeks debate on US at Security Council

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Nicaragua has requested an urgent debate in the United Nations Security Council on what it sees as the "dangerous escalation" of American involvement in attacks against it. The move comes after the admission by a group of Vietnam war veterans of their participation in an air raid on a Nicaraguan military installation.

The Sandinista Government is also referring the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, which is already considering a complaint about the involvement of the CIA in the mining of Nicaraguan ports earlier this year.

A group of war veterans calling themselves Civilian Military Assistance told a press conference in Huntsville, Alabama, on Tuesday that the two Americans who died when a helicopter was shot down over a Nicaraguan army camp on Saturday had been taking part in an operation by CIA-funded counter-revolutionaries based in Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, said the Reagan Administration, particularly the CIA, must have known of their involvement yet had taken no action against the veterans.

"The US authorities have failed to institute criminal proceedings against an organization of individuals who, from their own account, have been involved in activities which imply clear violation certainly at least of national law, the

Neutrality Act of the United States", he said.

"It should be evident to everyone from the facts that have already surfaced that these activities could not have been carried out without the knowledge and consent of the CIA."

"Not only are these people able to leave the United States to come and murder our people but they are able to come and use CIA facilities in Honduras, bases, airfields and helicopters. This is something for which the US Government must be held accountable under a very well recognized principle of state responsibility."

"I think we have yet to see the full consequences of this incident. I believe we are coming close to the time when President Reagan will have to learn the hard way what he should have known a long time ago, that might does not make right."

Father D'Escoto said that once the identities of the two dead Americans had been made known by their organization, he had personally been in touch by telephone with their parents in Tennessee and Alabama, offering to repatriate their remains.

Both families said they had not been notified of events by the US authorities, which had also made no approach on the subject to the Managua Government. A spokesman for the US Embassy in Managua said an approach had been made.

At the Tuesday press conference the two Americans killed on Saturday were identified as Dana Parker, a Huntsville

## Meetings begin on Vatican ban

A Nicaraguan Government delegation which hopes to persuade the Vatican to relax a ban on three priests serving as ministers had talks yesterday with Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, Secretary of the Church's Council for Public Affairs. No information was given about the discussions except that they will continue today (John Earle reports from Rome). Also present was Mr Pablo Antonio Vega, president of the Nicaraguan Bishop's Conference.

police detective on leave of absence, and James Postell of Memphis. Both were said to have been helicopter pilots in Vietnam.

● HUNTSVILLE: Two members of Civilian Military Assistance said here on Wednesday that they had received help from US embassies in Honduras and El Salvador in their efforts to provide military equipment to anti-communist forces in Central America (The New York Times reports). Although Mr Thomas Pacy and Mr Walton Blanton maintained that they were not associated with the US Government in any way and had received no money for their work, they said that US officials in El Salvador and Honduras had helped to put them in touch with the Chief of Staff of the Salvadoran armed forces and with Honduran military officers.

## 212 days in space

### Cosmonauts set endurance record

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Three Soviet cosmonauts yesterday established an endurance record in space after spending 212 days on the orbiting space station Salyut 7.

Mr Leonid Kizim, aged 43, Mr Vladimir Solovoy, aged 37, and Dr Oleg Atkov, aged 35, have been in space since February 8 this year. The previous record for continuous space mission was held by two Soviet cosmonauts - Mr Anatoly Berezovoy and Mr Valentin Lebedev - who spent 211 days on board the station in 1982.

The latest record is being hailed by Soviet officials as a triumph of Soviet technology. President Chernenko, making his first public appearance for seven weeks, spoke with evident feeling on Wednesday in the Kremlin of Soviet advances since Yuri Gagarin's pioneering space flight 23 years ago. He praised the "daring thinking" of Soviet scientists and the courage of the cosmonauts on Salyut 7, whose flight was "another conspicuous landmark in mankind's unravelling of earthly and universal mysteries."

The Soviet leader was presenting medals to Miss Svetlana Savitskaya and two other cosmonauts who visited the three resident Salyut 7 cosmonauts in July.

The Salyut 7 mission has suffered setbacks, including a launchpad explosion and a fuel leak which damaged the station's manoeuvrability. But Mr Kizim, Mr Solovoy and Dr Atkov have become adept at using space walks to repair faulty equipment. In July, Miss

Savitskaya became the world's first woman to walk in space, using a welding and cutting tool nicknamed "jaws". The Salyut 7 team made six space walks, which, President Chernenko remarked jokingly, were like regular strolls.

Salyut 7, launched in April, 1982, has become a giant orbiting complex, with unmanned Cosmos and Progress cargo craft attached to it.

The United States has concentrated on shuttle technology, and committed itself to the concept of permanent space stations only this year. Space experts say the Russians have now copied the American space shuttle while also going ahead with huge rockets designed to ferry a gigantic orbiting station into space in component parts.

Mr Chernenko noted on Wednesday that the experience of the Salyut 7 crew and the visiting Soyuz T12 team led by Commander Vladimir Dzhanibekov would be used to build "major orbiting stations to act not only as laboratories but also as space production workshops."

The Salyut 7 project has obvious military applications, according to Western experts, although Soviet officials insist the Soviet programme is purely peaceful and accuse the US of "militarizing" space. Talks on Star Wars weapons were due to open in Vienna this month but they are stalled.

The Salyut 7 crew did scientific experiments and geological surveys during their 212 days in space.



Space trio: Cosmonauts Vladimir Solovoy (left), Leonid Kizim (centre) and Oleg Atkov facing the press

## Madrid hints at complete opening of Rock frontier

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spanish diplomats have said here they are hopeful that some "concrete results" on Gibraltar will emerge from a meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish opposite number, at the United Nations General Assembly in New York at the end of this month.

The talks over Gibraltar, which have been going on quietly since last spring, have been making progress, the diplomats claimed, and they were looking forward to the possibility of a complete opening by Spain of the frontier between the Rock and La Linea later this year.

However, it was immediately clear here that Señor Morán, who ordered a limited opening of the frontier, benefiting chiefly Spain, in December, 1982, has not given up the hope of receiving something tangible in return from Britain for unrestricted passage to and from the Rock.

But Spain will have to open the frontier anyway, without

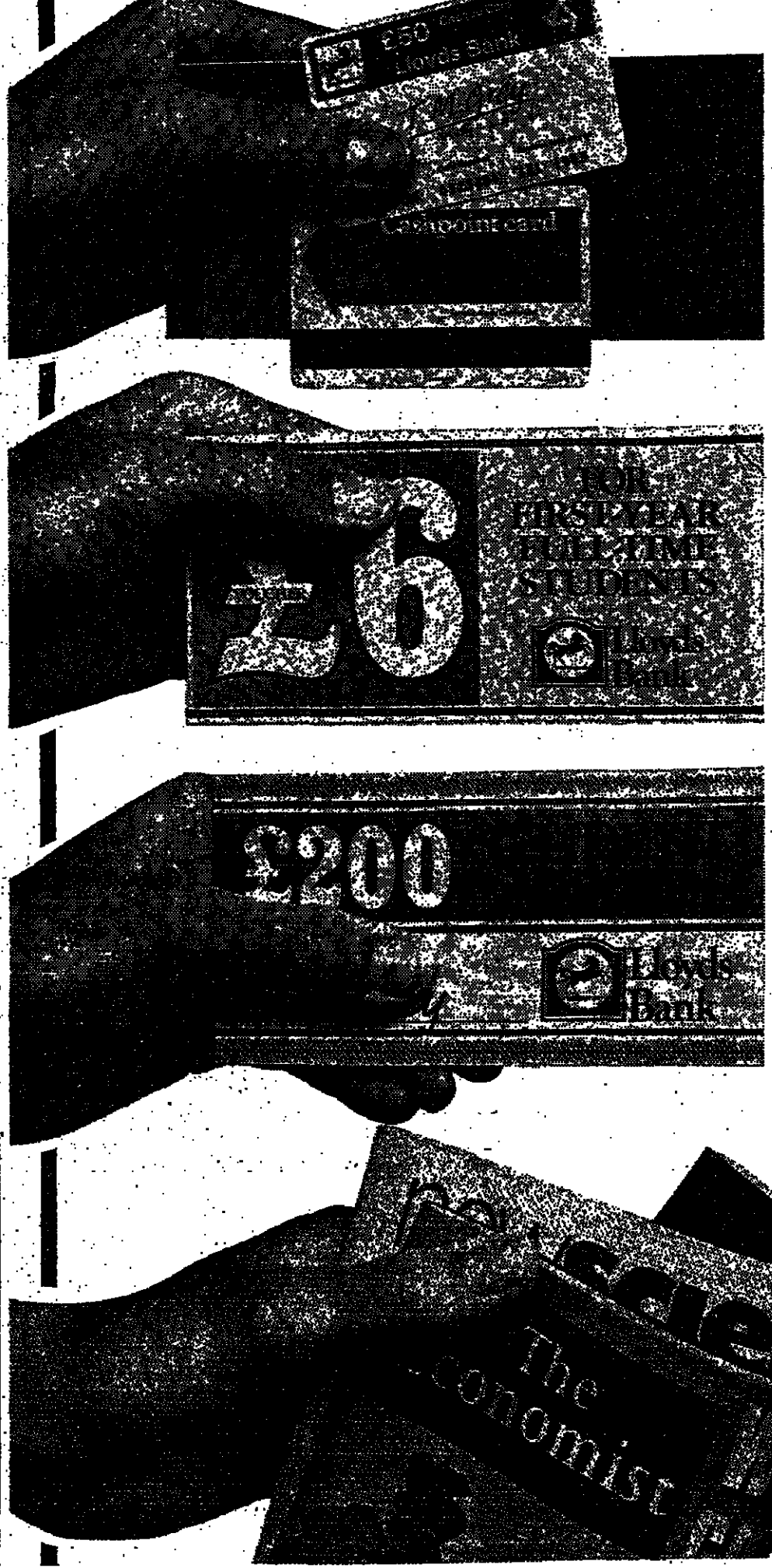
restrictions on joining the EEC, and Britain's view has always been that the sooner the last vestiges of Franco's 1969 blockade of Gibraltar are removed the better.

The Gibraltar issue is now increasingly involved with Spain's EEC entry negotiations, supposed this autumn to be in their concluding phase, and especially the issue of free movement of labour. The Community is thinking in terms of a seven-year transitional period, but Spain has asked for a review in five years. Countries such as West Germany are giving Madrid a dusty answer to that.

Last April, London proposed the implementation of EEC requirements in advance of joining, but Madrid rejected that idea.

● WHITEHALL HOPEFUL: The Madrid reports have raised hopes in Whitehall that Spain is preparing to implement the 1980 Lisbon Agreement, which assures the full reopening of the Gibraltar frontier (Henry Stanhope writes).

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## City drained of its old vibrance

## A life lost in Odessa

Cosmopolitan Odessa, colourful Black Sea city of crime, dockside whores, salty sailors and Jewish shopkeepers and humourists. Not any more.

Ladies of the night do haunt the hard-currency bars, and Soviet thrillers about the KGB still tend to depict corrupt underworld villains living in luxury in Odessa. But there is no sign of the Bohemian cafe frequented once by the celebrated comic writing duo, ILF and Petrov.

The cafe name has been retained, but the premises have moved, and the place is a run-of-the-mill Soviet cafeteria.

No streets are named after Odessa gangster Benya Krik, or after ILF and Petrov, inventors of the roguish con man Ostap Bender. All the places seem to be named after St. Taras Shevchenko, a Soviet-approved founder of Ukrainian culture (Odessa is now part of the Ukraine, largely an administrative convenience).

No doubt the old Odessa had its drawbacks, such as the noising restriction of eighteenth and nineteenth-century limestone buildings, including the London Hotel overlooking the sea.

There is more street life than in most Soviet cities, with shoppers strolling along airy, and pausing at stalls or ice cream kiosks. Fruit seems plentiful.

There are good beaches at Arcadia, Odessa's contribution to the concept of the working-class sanatorium belt (*Et in Arcadia ego* suddenly takes on



THE SOVIET SUN BELT

new meaning as a Marxist-Leninist slogan), and at the resort of Lazavka also known rather disconcertingly as Kemping [camping].

The port bustles, with a thriving new cargo terminal at Yuzhni near by, constructed with Western help. The combined cargo turnover is 20m tons a year, including grain, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

The main passenger harbour was rebuilt in 1936, the only drawback being the loss of one or two of the bottom-most Potemkin steps, the legendary flight of 192 steps on which the blood of Russian revolutionaries was spilled in 1905, but which are now cut off from the water by the terminal.

The Odessa Stock Exchange, once the beating heart of the city's commerce, is now used for pop concerts. The latest attraction this summer was a group called Bim Bom. Across the road is the delightfully baroque Stucco exterior of

the Krasnaya or Red Hotel, a name which predates the communist era.

There is also the music school which gave us Emil Gilels and David Oistrakh, and the magnificent Opera House, modelled on the Vienna Opera House and saved by partisans from Nazi destruction during wartime occupation. The communists, indeed, have restored a great deal of the Odessa the Nazis tore down.

What the Soviet authorities have not been able to restore is the vibrant Jewish life which once made Odessa a byword for Jewish humour and acumen.

Thousands of Jews perished under the Nazis, but there is a significant Jewish community left. They have one synagogue, but as I found when I set out by train and on foot to track it down one hot and dusty afternoon, the synagogue is "closed for repairs". Its windows cracked and boarded up.

It is, in any case, in a semi-industrial area, next to a railway line, a forlorn sight. The official view is that Odessa's Jews, Armenians, Greeks, Ukrainians and Russians have all intermarried and are assimilated.

In the sense that all Odessans seem to have a Jewish sense of humour and love or wisecracks this is true. But the Jewish community which once produced the great Isaac Babel is none the less left without a focus for Jewish spiritual life.

Tomorrow: Bakhchisarai

Richard Owen

## Hirohito ends 400 years of bitterness

From David Watts  
Tokyo

Emperor Hirohito of Japan, speaking with a firmness and clarity that belied his 83 years, last night moved Japanese-Korean relations into an era of warmth unprecedented in almost 400 years.

In an historic and highly symbolic gesture, the Emperor sought to take the vitriol out of a relationship first soured in 1592 when Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the Japanese warlord, invaded Korea to give birth to one of the world's most bitter enmities.

At a banquet in the Imperial Palace, the Emperor's presence at the side of President Chun Doo Hwan of Korea was even more important than his words.

Recalling the earlier, productive years of the sixth and seventh centuries, the Emperor said Japan had learnt a great deal from Korea. "Our two countries were thus bound by deep neighbourly relations over the ages," he added.

"In spite of such relations, it is indeed regrettable that there was an unfortunate past between us for a period in this century and I believe it should not be repeated again."

The form of words was vague, as befits an Emperor who must refrain from political statements. But the Koreans were pleased that the Emperor, who came to the throne 18 years after Japan annexed Korea and ruled throughout the brutal war period, acknowledged what they see as Japan's historic debt to Korea.

Although the Emperor is bound by strict rules of protocol, he went far to show the Korean leader the warmth



New era: President Chun and his wife being greeted by Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo yesterday.

of his feelings in their few public moments.

What the Emperor told President Chun in their private talks was not revealed. But from the arrangements for the visit, it is clear the Japanese want to bring the Emperor and the President together as much as possible to reflect something of the personal relationship Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has built up with the President.

Yesterday's first round of talks between Mr Nakasone and the President centred on the divided Korean peninsula. Mr Nakasone emphasized the need to bring North Korea out of isolation and so lessen tension, but President Chun urged caution in dealing with the north.

He asked Mr Nakasone to use Japan's diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union and China to try to contain North

Korea. Seoul has no diplomatic relations with either Moscow or Peking.

The massive police presence throughout Tokyo limited protests against the visit to a left-wing demonstration near Haneda airport as the President arrived. Two radicals were arrested and later a gas bomb was discharged in a car. The security operation is said to be costing 21m a day.

● BANGKOK - President Chun's trip to Japan is aimed at permanently dividing the Korean peninsula into "a springboard for United States aggression" against the socialist world, the Vietnamese Communist Party paper *Nhan Dan* said. It accused the United States of pressing President Chun and Mr Nakasone to settle their differences and forge a military alliance.

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## Mulroney landslide pulls Quebec into Conservative fold

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Conservative leader who will soon be taking over Canada's Prime Minister, has an historic opportunity to knit this often-divided country together.

Mr Mulroney returned to Ottawa on Wednesday night from his constituency in Manicouagan, Quebec, with the largest electoral majority in Canadian history. In his first federal general election on Tuesday he humiliated the long-reigning Liberals, winning 211 seats to their 40. The New Democratic Party finished third with 30 seats.

Mr Mulroney, a superb politician with charm to match his adroitness and unbounded ambition, played on and capitalized on all the Liberal weaknesses.

In the process he has accomplished the remarkable feat of making the Conservatives a truly national party for the first time in nearly a century.

He gave the party strength in predominantly French-speaking Quebec to complement its well established strength in the rest of Canada. The Quebec breakthrough was spectacular. From one seat four years ago the Tories climb to 58 seats this time. The Liberals won just 17 against the 74 seats they won in the last election.

The astonishing turnaround was reminiscent of the haul of 50 Quebec seats engineered by the late Tory Prime Minister, Mr John Diefenbaker, when he swept the country in 1958.

But that was strictly a matter of Quebec getting on a national bandwagon. Five years and two elections later, the Conservatives had relinquished all but eight of those seats to the Liberal Party, which maintains its long-term hold on the province by periodically electing French-Canadian leaders from Quebec. Mr Mulroney is the first Conservative leader from the province.

Mr Mulroney has the opportunity to make the rapprochement with Quebec more durable than Mr Diefenbaker could. Whereas Mr Diefenbaker was a westerner who did not understand Quebecers, much less speak their language, Mr Mulroney is a native-born Quebecer who was brought up in Baie Comeau, on the remote north shore of the St Lawrence river.

He is a member of the province's 20 per cent English-language minority, but speaks French as though it is his mother tongue. His ability to communicate with French-Canadians, individually or in crowds, is astonishing. It will not be easy to maintain unity in a swollen parliamentary caucus that has suddenly spawned 57 new Quebec MPs to compete for Cabinet posts to which party loyalists from English-speaking Canada might feel entitled.

But Mr Mulroney has shown a statesmanlike ability to stand above Canada's historic French-English division, for example he has spoken out in favour of official bilingualism in Manitoba, much to the chagrin of the province's overwhelming English-language majority.

He let it be known during the election campaign that he would try to substitute a friendly and cooperative relationship with Quebec's separatist Parti Quebecois government for the hostile relationship that prevailed under the Liberals.

How far he will be able to work with a regime that still, officially, advocates Quebec's separation from Canada remains to be seen. But it is perhaps significant that in his first comment on the election, Mr René Lévesque, the premier, said that the Conservative landslide had opened the prospect of a new era in federal-provincial relations and he said: "We are going to jump in."

RESULTS BY PROVINCES

	PC	Libs	NDP
1984	(1980)	1984	(1980)
Newfoundland	4	(2)	3
Prince Edward I	3	(2)	2
Nova Scotia	9	(2)	2
New Brunswick	9	(2)	2
Quebec	58	(1)	17
Ontario	67	(38)	14
Manitoba	9	(9)	1
Saskatchewan	9	(7)	1
Alberta	21	(1)	1
Brit Columbia	19	(15)	1
Yukon	1	(1)	1
Northwest Terr	2	(1)	1
	211	(103)	40
		(147)	30
			(32)

Plus: Ontario Independent 1 (-)

### Gay teachers threatened with dismissal

From Our Correspondent Melbourne

Teachers in Queensland who publicly declare that they are homosexuals will be dismissed by the state government.

The move by Mr Lin Powell, state Minister for Education, helps to reinforce the reputation of Queensland as Australia's most conservative state. It brought a strong protest from the Queensland teachers' union.

Mr Powell's move comes after recent court cases involving teachers convicted of sexually abusing students.

Mr Powell has a reputation for taking action against homosexual teachers: he banned Queensland teachers from attending last year's national conference of Lesbians and homosexuals in Melbourne.

### New inquiry on Sri Lanka's Chief Justice

From Our Correspondent Colombo

The Speaker of Parliament, Mr E. L. Senanayake, yesterday nominated a 10-member committee to inquire into and report on a resolution submitted to him on Wednesday by 57 MPs requesting the President to remove the Chief Justice, Mr Neville Samarakoon, from office.

The resolution refers to statements by the Chief Justice at an awards ceremony.

Mr Samarakoon had said that resentment had been building up not only against Tamil terrorists, but also against the establishment that has not taken proper action against them. "It is unfortunate that the means to an end was racial. If there was another way of doing it, it would have been done."







## SPECTRUM

## Greene: four score years and then?

moreover...  
Miles KingtonPlayed and  
Beaton by  
the camera

In Part Two of The Times' tribute to the life and work of Graham Greene, praise for his genius comes from the worlds of politics, literature and the universities. A private man, Greene, who is 80 on October 2, has rarely emerged from behind his mask of anonymity, yet his influence, as these tributes show, has been immense

with many many people, a moment of truth all the stronger because Ida was so real.

Added to this, of course, was Mr Greene's extraordinary power of plot-making, of suspense and of narration that moves continuously both in time and space and in emotion. In *Brighton Rock*, I found for the first time that I could obtain from the same modern novel the simple pleasures of a good read and the exciting demand of a novel of great depth.

It did not mean that the excitement of the experimental novels of our century were not as important as they seemed, but it did mean that so much that had been so vital to my enjoyment in boyhood was now open to me again in young manhood, and, not as I had thought, to be found only by a return to the masters of the last century.

DUKE OF NORFOLK  
Leading Catholic layman

Not every gifted brain is embedded in a chuckling sense of humour which can see the funny side of even the dullest episodes. Graham's novels may well have been coloured by his incredible imagination, but when one knows of his endless urge to swan over the world and sample every person and experience, they are no more than spicy autobiographies.

Anyhow, this generation will always enjoy them, because we are jealous that we have not had his fortunate luck in leading such a life, and our children's children will surely read them to learn how we have all behaved.

There may be many subtleties in how he puts the novels together - by writing the last bit first or turning the middle upside-down - but you will agree that when you have started to read one, you do not want to cheat by looking at the last chapter first, and you are sad when you do reach it and it is the end.

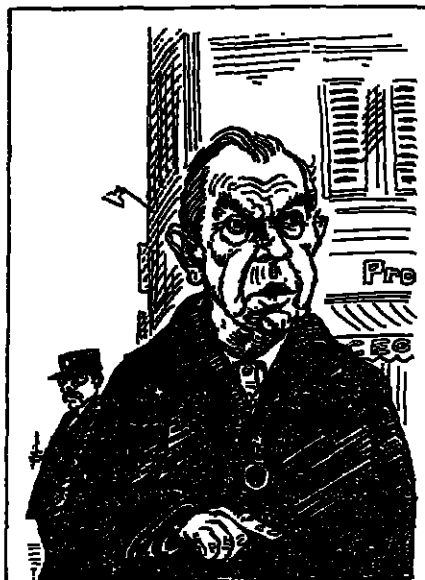
ANGUS WILSON  
Novelist

It was 1938. A time when we all needed painful truths that would stick. Did not want easy answers that would fade after they had jogged us along a little. We all needed a confirmation of the civil forces that were manifesting themselves. Needed to realize, and more important to feel, something deeper than just right or wrong, good guys and rotten eggs.

The world of that big - both hearted and breasted - decent, sensible, no-nonsense woman, Ida Arnold, was not going to be enough. Ida it was, I think, that first gave me the sense that Graham Greene's novels had a depth that was unknown to the novel of that day which was also a good story.

Rose, it is true, was a moving martyr; Pinkie, irredeemably evil. But the insufficiency of Ida's no-nonsense good sense, her certainty of right and wrong as the limit of the depths of the human spirit, was, as I remember it, hard to take in a world clinging to optimism; yet the final conviction was total.

The realization that jog-along decency, human justice, right or wrong as being enough, just couldn't satisfy was, as I have found in discussing the novel



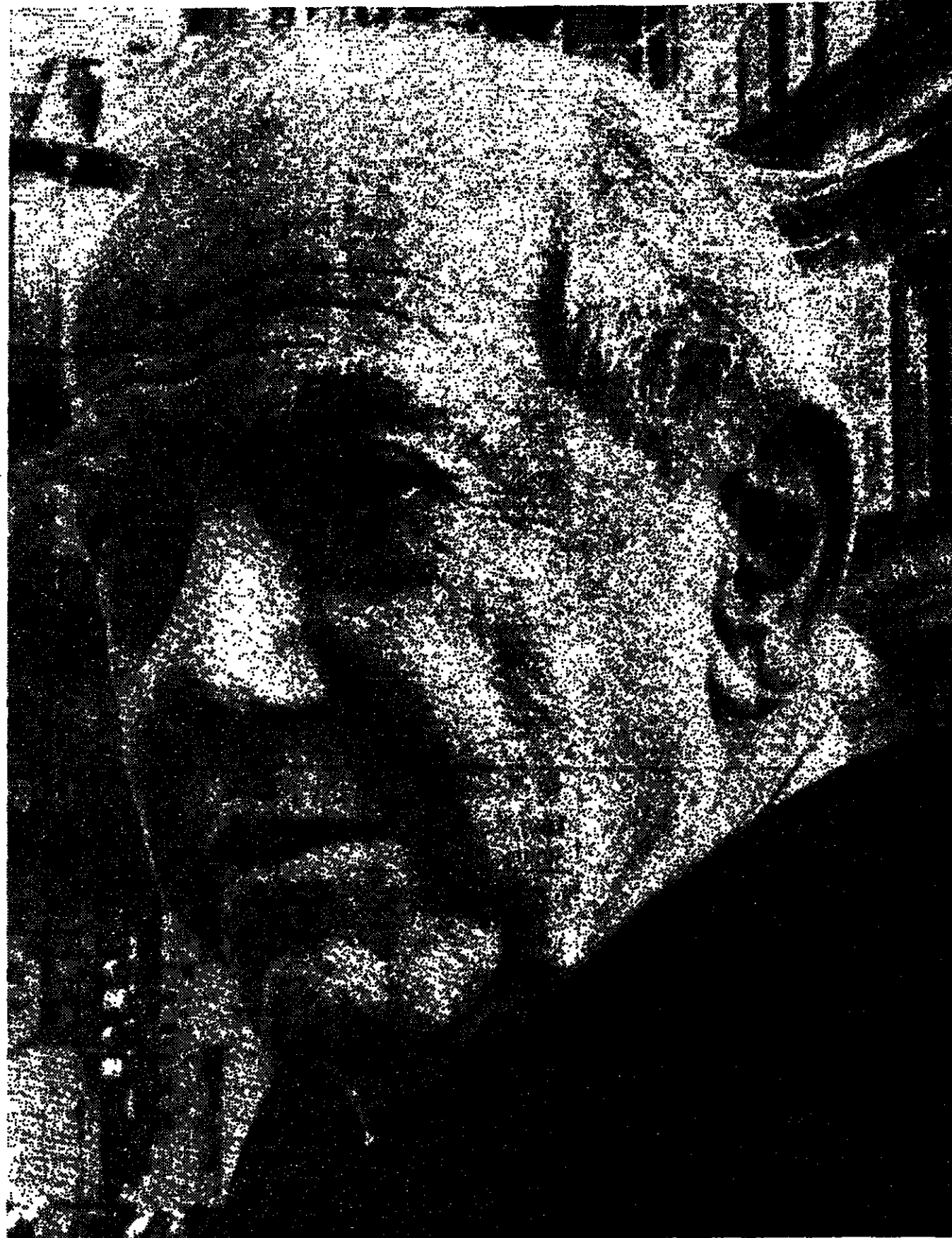
In a letter to *The Times* published on January 25 1982, Greene described Nice as a city "ruined for its corruption". He also suggested that he planned a non-fiction based on his own experience in the area entitled *J'accuse*. The letter plunged Greene into a prolonged public row with the authorities involving demands from the Mayor for his evidence and advice from Greene to anyone planning to live in Nice to change their minds. Commenting on the affair he said: "A writer's old age can be very strange. Sometimes it's like his books: Evelyn Waugh, who made such fun of Apthorpe's 'thunder-box', died in the WC. Zola, like the miners in *Germinal*, was suffocated by charcoal fumes, and now, at the age of seventy-six, I find myself at grips with the criminal 'milieu' of Nice - but I hope that I, at any rate, shall get the better of Pinkie."

SIR DAVID HUNT  
Diplomat and author

A retrospective glance at the works of Graham Greene makes you feel on the point of drowning - not because of the flood of material but rather because it brings, as drowning is said to do, the whole of your past life before your eyes.

In my first term at Oxford, 1932, I read *Stamboul Train*, published that year. Since then each stage and circumstance of my life has been accompanied by a new Graham Greene novel. To speak unkindly of any would be like treason to an earlier self.

The charm of the first novels lay in



"Graham Greene: He is the living writer I most admire; the greatest novelist of his time, in any language. The contribution he has made to the literature of this century is enormous" - William Trevor, fellow author

DAVID STEEL  
Leader of the Liberal Party

"I put the muzzle of the revolver into my right ear and pulled the trigger. There was a minute click, and looking down at the chamber I could see that the charge had moved into the firing position. I was out by one."

We must all be grateful that Graham Greene survived that and his other attempts at Russian roulette and has lived to entertain us for so long. His work happily continues unabated in his ninth decade, with no diminution in quality. Besides writing steadily he

also manages to find the time and energy to stand up for an individual's rights in the face of powerful authority.

In his books he has created and peopled a territory all of his own, Greenland, which ought to have a place in any atlas of English writers.

His prose has that unmistakable quality: spare, penetrating, evocative. Even in his entertainments there is a philosophy shining not far below the surface. Unlike most books of that genre they can be reread and rediscovered.

Surely it is of international regret that his achievement - and it is a varied one spanning over fifty years - has not been recognized with the award of the Nobel Prize. It is not too late for the judges to make amends.



The central issue throughout Greene's work has always been the question of faith. He became a Roman Catholic in 1926. He had been working in Nottingham and decided to ask for instruction because his fiancée was a Catholic. Over a period of instruction lasting six months a Father Trollope convinced him of the existence of God. Throughout his work, faith is always seen from a profoundly human standpoint.

He has always acknowledged doubt as part of the fabric of belief and a necessary condition of being a man. Yet he dislikes

the term "Catholic writer" preferring to say instead: "I'm simply a Catholic who happens to write." Asked recently if he felt haunted by God he replied: "I hope so! I hope so! I'm not very conscious of His presence, but I hope that He is still dogging my footsteps. I also find myself thinking, not so much that He is pursuing me, but that certain extraordinary circumstances have had a beneficial effect on my life - I don't mean in terms of professional success or in terms of money, but in terms of happiness. My life has been radically transformed by events which have no logical reason."

THE TIMES  
Tomorrow

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Philosopher

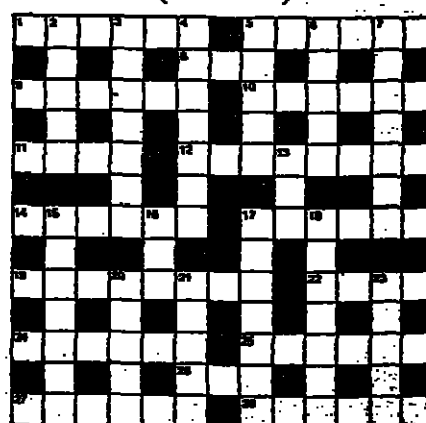
Hindsight does nothing to dislodge the impression he gave at the time: of being the essential British novelist of the 1930s. Although not personally close, as Isherwood was, to Auden and the poets around him, he shared their political concerns and fixed his attention, as Orwell did, not on the comfortable surroundings of the educated classes - the world, at one extreme, of Forster and Virginia Woolf, at the other of Agatha Christie - but on England as it was for most people.

The outcome was Greenland, the famously seedy world of terrace houses, dingy offices, inept private detectives with ulcers, oppressed teachers of absurd international languages, Harrovians gone to the bad, tarts and bookies in Brighton, communists caught up in a bus strike, mediums in beighted suburbs, forlorn, maltreated chambermaids in frightful hotels.

Conrad, particularly the Conrad of *The Secret Agent*, was the major and acknowledged influence. Admiration for Henry James showed itself in complexities of inner response, for John Buchan in a fondness, and a gift, for suspense; an inspired selection of examples.

Coming to read him in adolescence, in the last year of the 1930s, I felt him to be the most fresh and authoritative interpreter of my surroundings and they have never really lost the form that he helped me to perceive in them.

The original Graham Greene ended with the war, and with *The Heart of the Matter* and *The End of the Affair*. The former generous politics gave way to a sour anti-Americanism; the English scene was abandoned for the Third World. The earlier Greene retains undiminished glory for me. It is time to read *The Ministry of Fear* again.

CONCISE CROSSWORD  
(No 439)

ACROSS  
1 Large fleet (6)  
2 Security (6)  
3 Claque (3)  
4 Russian peasant (6)  
5 Disorderly (6)  
6 Two vector product (4)  
7 Refuse consent (8)  
8 Ineffectual (6)  
9 Prosper (6)  
10 Stray calf (8)  
11 Little rock (4)  
12 Soft and light (6)  
13 Paste strip (3)  
14 Wrap pipe (3)  
15 Unkeyed (6)  
16 Benne oil seed (6)  
17 Spacious (5)  
18 Declare (7)  
19 With doubt (7)  
20 Goaded (5)  
21 Foremost (5)  
22 Largest Israeli city (4)  
23 Mountain tree (3)  
24 Little apartment (7)  
25 European lorry (11,1)  
26 Proceed (7)  
27 Cloth strip (7)  
28 Whimsical (3)  
29 Pastoral poem (3)  
30 Botanic yell (3)

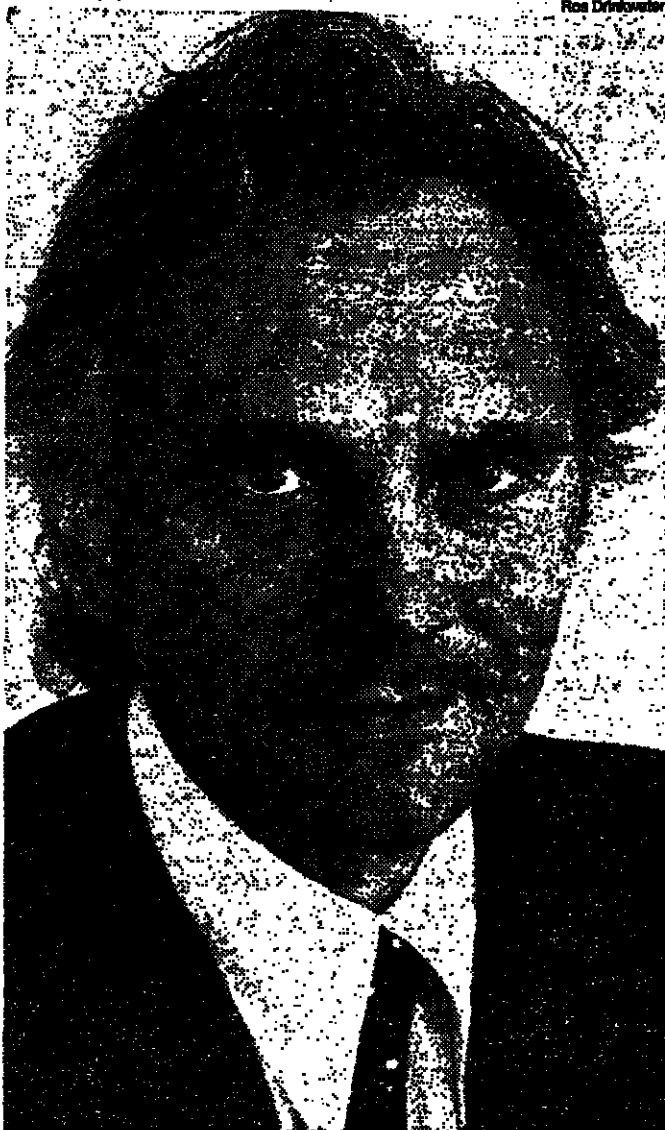
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FRIDAY PAGE

One of the sons of the sixties is back as a film supergrass - Michael Crozier discovers the new man of the eighties

# Stamp of sense and sensitivity



The 1984 Terence Stamp: At peace with the world and himself and still attracting admiring glances

The face is lined now, the hair grey and thinning but the deep-set blue eyes still have an extraordinary quality. The gestures seem well rehearsed but the body is calm and relaxed, betraying none of the tension and conflict that marked his meteoric path to stardom in the sixties.

Terence Stamp is back. His latest film, *The Hit*, opens in London today and Stamp is speaking, reluctantly at first, about his career and private life. Sitting in the pink, gold and blue opulence of the Ritz he gives precise orders to the waiter: "Fresh lemon juice with ice. Mineral water. I'll pour it."

We are on his stamping ground. On another day it would have been the Soda Fountain at Fortnum's, where the China tea and Mexican honey would have been delivered to his semi-permanently reserved table by one of the waitresses he knows so well. He still lives in Albany, a few hundred yards away from Piccadilly.

In the film, 46-year-old Stamp plays Willy Parker, a supergrass, whose reward for betraying his fellow gangsters is exile in Spain. Ten years later, after prison, the gang sends an assassin to "take him out". It sounds like just another gangster movie.

Stamp disagrees: "No, the thing that makes this movie unusual, the comedy and dilemma of it, is that the supergrass has been using these 10 years to learn, basically, how to die. He has evolved over the years through study because he knows he's signed his own death warrant."

"That kind of pressure has given him an extraordinary incentive to understand the whole process of death."

"Does this character with his inner calm reflect your own philosophy?"

"People assume that because I was cast and because I'm known for being an old India freak that the character is like that. In fact, there's not really an indication in the film that he's stumbled on to Eastern philosophy."

Won't most filmgoers still see it on a very superficial level?

Again, Stamp pauses, searching for the right words: "It really works on the superficial level of a thriller, but if you want to see, if you are ready to look beyond that, there's not nothing there - that's the point."

The impression immediately comes across that he is talking about himself. That beyond the reclusive figure, the man in the spotlight of the swinging sixties, who drifted away from glamour, the girls and the glory, lies now the real Terence Stamp, the son of an East End tug-boat driver, who through reading and reflection is at peace with the world and himself.

The journey has not been easy. Stamp has felt the need to rely on gurus. The first was Michael Caine, with whom he shared three flats in the sixties. "Because we were both from

*Everything I acquired was so superficial*

London, he took me under his wing and guided me. When it all happened to me, I was a little embarrassed because he was my guru and I thought he would make it. I couldn't see how anybody could fail to see his talent."

Their friendship waned when Stamp started going out with Jean Shrimpton - together the young superstar and the stunning model formed the ideally beautiful couple, a product of the age. He just wanted to be with her.

When she left him after four years - "I suppose I really deserved it" - he took off on the first of his many trips to India, and "the search for self-enlightenment".

He says: "When she left, I realized that all these things I had acquired, that I thought were quintessential to my well-being, were just peripheral, superficial. In that moment of real heartache, lots of money and stuff didn't quench anything."

The sense of loss still lies deep within him. The memory triggers off the sudden need to explain that he feels "more receptive" than other men, although as he admits, that does sound pretentious. He does feel sensitive about the need to escape from his moods of emotional doubt.

Bizarrely at first, he explains that when he is alone and melancholic he reads Rupert Bear: "It's a kind of alchemy for me. If I'm in a certain mood, I can enhance that mood by flicking through the old Rupert."

Surely that is just an escape into childhood fantasies?

His denial is obscure: "Rupert is not any escape. It's attached to a feeling whereby I can step into a certain sort of level of sensitivity."

He tries again, touching my arm, seeking comprehension: "When I was so depressed after Jean left, everything I started reading told me to find an enlightened person. I think that the phrase that hooked me was the first guru, was the mother and the second the father and the third guru was the guru. So I took off on my own to India."

The words are a sudden reprise of the vocabulary of the sixties but now, nearly 20 years later, he still believes them deeply.

After India, Stamp spent much time in Rome making low-budget films with Fellini, Visconti and others. Then the pull of London proved too much and he returned to his chambers in Albany.

Since then he has never stopped making films. He appeared in *Superman*, *Superman II* and the recent independent television thriller, *Chessgame*. But he feels as an artist that he must be selective.

He says: "I am equipped to work much more. It would suit my lifestyle to work more. It is just that if I can pay the rent then I prefer to be out of work than do something I would feel really embarrassed by. I get scripts and I just think that I can't really do that. I am a middle-aged

man and I've been in the business 25 years."

I am suddenly aware that even here in the moneyed confines of the Ritz he still attracts the admiring glances of the women, and men, walking past. Of this, he gives no sign that he notices or even cares, preferring to talk about his plans to write a film script.

Unlike so many other stars of his generation he has no wish to put himself behind the cameras and direct. He is too self-contained for that.

When not working he spends his days, often alone, in Albany, playing music (he is careful not to identify his taste) and reading.

Philosophy? "I'm not really reading much serious stuff these days. I've reached the point when all philosophy is essentially the same."

*I find all philosophy is essentially the same*

flavour. Like eating honey, it's a great pleasure that you remember."

A vegetarian naturally, Stamp learnt how to cook for himself but strangely for a man of his East End background never eats fish. He does not smoke and has only an occasional drink: "My favourite is really good vintage champagne or good wine. I'm a very cheap date, a couple of glasses and I'm really away." He no longer worries about life passing him by. I now have a sense of something living inside me. In the past there just wasn't any gravity."

I had to ask it: "Is there anyone special to you in your life at the moment?"

The answer was well scripted and rehearsed: "There is no one special just now apart from you. I relate to the people I am with. By the way, what's the time? I must dash. I'm having dinner with Jacqueline Bisset."



Stamp in *Billy Budd* in 1962, and as the supergrass in *The Hit*

## Just a fading memory blowing in the wind

It is ironic that the nostalgic prettiness and tranquillity of the good old days painted by Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* should have been inspired by such an unimpressive place as Juniper Hill.

Surrounded on all sides by the flat, windswept farmland of North Oxfordshire, the hamlet is a cluster of houses ringed by a cart track known as the Rise. There are no shops and just one pub, the Fox Inn, which was empty at lunchtime and, despite the welcome mat, not very receptive to strangers.

Sitting in the low-beamed room, surrounded by silence and the twinkling lights of a jukebox, you recall Flora Thompson's description of the friendly gatherings in the evening at the pub "with its roaring fire, red curtains and well-scoured pewter".

Wherever else you might see the commercialization of Lark Rise it will not be at Juniper Hill, Flora Thompson's childhood home. The village has been isolated for so long that some innate suspicion towards outsiders remains.

At the whitewashed cottage called Lark Rise, with its unobtrusive plaque noting that Flora Thompson was born there in 1876, its owners, the Goodings, have painted "Private" on the gate. They moved there 17 years ago, before it became a tourist target, and they are a little tired of people marching into the garden, ignoring them, and taking photographs of the house.

In spite of their understandable aversion to tourists, the people of Juniper take pride in their famous daughter, the quiet, bookreading girl in the end house who, years after she left the area, recalled the days of her childhood so evocatively.

Flora Thompson, herself never romanticized the hamlet. She wrote of a life where the only meat people could afford was cured bacon from the slaughtered family pig to spice up a diet of cabbage, bread and potatoes.

Families lived 10 or more in the cramped one-up, one-down cottages: Flora's parents, Emma and Albert Timms, had 10 children, of whom six died young. Flora was the eldest, and by the age of 14 was working as



Different generations: Mrs Ashton and her grandchildren at Juniper Hill today

an assistant to the postmistress at Fringford.

After the hard days of the 1880s, there was a steady trickle of people from the hamlet to the bigger towns. A number, includ-

ing one of Flora's brothers, emigrated to Canada or Australia. But there are still those whose family connections go back generations, such as the Ashtons, whom Flora wrote of

in Lark Rise as the "Ashleys", remembering their home as a place of "peace and quiet and spotless purity", with its white washed walls, scrubbed table and floor and polished grate.

## Hard sell of the classic fable of sleeping Lark Rise

Over at Radcliffe Manor, immortalised by Flora Thompson as the home of the woman in the Garibaldi jacket, the merchandizing of Lark Rise was being celebrated this week. Journalists, publishers and people from Debenhams arrived by coach to sniff Back's Yitz and admire the stone-flagged floor and kitchen range that were so accurately described in the book.

The manor's new owner, Brian Howlett, who has lived there for six years, runs a herb garden, butterfly farm and is known as a "package designer". He has already designed herb garden kits, a "Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady" garden kit and is thinking of adding a "Lark Rise" garden kit to the collection.

The overall merchandizing has been given a £125,000 launch and Debenhams, who have exclusive rights for a month, hope to do £3m worth of business. A press release waxes lyrical over the heroic charm you can buy for your home.

Illustrations of pressed flowers are "scattered like a careless country pony over cups, mugs and plates". Rustic furniture in "aged pine" and Lark Rise soft furnishings and wallpapers with small flowered patterns will, we are told, add a breath of fresh air.

The project began when two men running a merchandizing company looked at the possibility of capitalizing on Century Publishing's *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*, a very

much abridged and lavishly illustrated version of Flora Thompson's classic.

Stuart Gibbon, managing director of Lark Rise Merchandizing Company, was already in the nostalgia business with his Edwardian Kitchen Company. He and Desmond Preston, a former managing director of John Lewis, set to persuading furniture, fabric and kitchen ware manufacturers to produce "Lark Rise" designs.

"After the launch, we will be issuing a Christmas album of Lark Rise carols, to be followed by old country and harvest songs", said Stuart Gibbon. "There will also be children's toys, children's books, a record of children's rhymes and a television series. We are only at the beginning."



A new "aged pine" chest in the Lark Rise collection

They show no signs of deserting the area: Stephen Ashton's two daughters are both married and living in cottages next door, and he has two grandsons.

Stephen Ashton, now 75, remembers Flora visiting her parents when he was a child. On one occasion he was sent to fetch some milk for her and was rewarded with a piece of cake.

Mr Ashton went to work on the land for a local farmer at the age of 14 for six shillings a week. Nearly all the men in Juniper worked on the land then. Today very few do so. One or two are at British Leyland in Oxford, others work for a shoe factory, a frozen chicken factory or a firm that manufactures concrete garages.

The local farmers usually employ contract workers. A newly built house, starkly grey, has just been completed on the site of the ruins of "Old Sally's" cottage. When you think of Flora Thompson's description of Old Sally's "long, low thatched cottage with diamond-paned windows winking under the eaves and a rustic porch smothered in honeysuckle," you begin to regret the passing of the old days, however hard they may have been.

Clare Colvin

## Soft option for baby

Babies thrive on their mother's milk - and lamb-skin. No self-respecting podiatric baby would be without lamb-skin bedding but the idea has been slow to catch on here. Winganna Natural Products have been importing lambskins for 15 years but only this month receive the official support of the National Childbirth Trust.

Research at Cambridge published in *The Lancet* last year revealed that premature babies who were nursed on lamb's wool gained significantly more weight than those lying on cotton sheets.

But lambskins are not just suitable for ailing babies. Any child or adult who benefits from them, a natural substitute will do and the wool must be clipped to about one inch. Air circulating through the fleece cools the skin, keeping it warm and dry.

Although the lambskins are fully machine washable, parents can save time and money on laundry: hot sponging the skin is usually quite sufficient.

Insomniacs and arthritics benefit from sleeping on them while bed-ridden invalids find bed sores less troublesome. Fleeces from Australia, where strict specifications have to be followed, are recommended. These are available from Winganna Natural Products (06465 403) or Kimberley Products (01-274 9347). Prices from £22.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

### Smoke cleared

Would-be mothers with a taste for smoked food can carry on eating with alacrity.

Recently scientists in Iceland linked the high incidence of diabetes there with a smoked mutton Christmas treat which the Icelanders eat in large quantities.

Concerned that smoked foods here may be having the same effect David Symon and colleagues from Aberdeen University tested the hypothesis in the north-east of Scotland where smoked foods are popular and the incidence of diabetes is high. While the idea may still hold true for Iceland they could find no evidence that mothers of diabetic children were more likely to eat more smoked food.

### Cycling safety

Road safety experts are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of young cyclists killed or maimed each year. They would like to see better and cheaper head-gear for cyclists made available and moves to encourage cyclists, especially children, to wear a helmet.

Provisional figures from the Department of Transport indicate that in 1983 10,580 children were hurt while riding a bicycle. Eighty-four died. Most at risk are young teenage boys; in some parts of the country cycling accidents are now the commonest cause of death in children over 10 and it is head injuries that kill.

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents a good helmet is likely to cost at least £20 and few makes are available. A report from a road safety working party will recommend in November a British Standard for cycle helmets.

## Bear the pain and carry the baby

Women who suffer painful cramp in the first couple of days of their periods may be reassured to know that it indicates that they are fertile. During the menstrual cycle the levels of hormones swing up and down and if ovulation occurs the lining of the womb may be triggered into producing substances called prostaglandins. These act on the muscles lining the womb causing contractions

and raising the intra-uterine pressure - the combination resulting in the pain.

According to Dr Stephen Smith, lecturer in the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at Sheffield, measurements of the intra-uterine pressure of women who have a particularly rough time have been as high as 400 mmHg (for comparison, during labour the expected level is in the region of 75 mmHg).

Dr Smith emphasizes that women who have pain-free periods should not assume they

are infertile. Painless periods can happen, and often do, when ovulation has occurred. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that pain and ovulation usually go hand-in-hand.

And Dr Smith also points out that there is not necessarily a link between painful and heavy periods. Although the loss of blood is linked to prostaglandins, it is not thought to be the same system as the one triggering the cramp.

Women should always seek medical advice if the pain is unusual or unexpected.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Fields of vision

After predicting a boardroom dust-up between Virgin Atlantic's chairman, Randolph Fields, and its president, Richard Branson, I can reveal that Fields is planning to set up his own transatlantic airline.

Fields, who owns 25 per cent of Virgin Atlantic, plans to operate his airline from Prestwick in Scotland, and fly to Virgin's US destination - Newark, New Jersey - but via Maastricht in Holland, a hitherto underused airport in the heart of industrial Europe. Permission for the route was granted to Fields on Virgin's behalf by the CAA, so now he will have to approach the authority again in a solo capacity. Fields was in Scotland for talks this week, and is understood to have sought financial backing from the Industry Department for Scotland, as Mr Murray, one of the highest areas of unemployment, he should attract lucrative grants. My prediction last month of a parting of the ways between Fields, a London-based American lawyer, and Branson, who owns the remaining 75 per cent of Virgin Atlantic, followed a leak to the diary of boardroom confrontations between the two.

### Boxed in

The deputy chairman of the Militant-led Liverpool City Council is heading back to the football terraces, following a recent incident in Liverpool F.C.'s directors box. Jimmy Hackett, who represented the council in Rome for the team's European Cup final, upset club chairman John Smith by his enthusiastic response to a Liverpool goal during the club's first home match of the season. Hackett jumped up and shouted "Well done!", as he has done over 31 years of support. "I was told you don't do that sort of thing in the directors' box," says Hackett. "From now on I will go back to the Cop with my own sort."

### Light relief

Amid cries of "Power cuts, what power cuts?", I learn that the Government has taken delivery of more than 12 million candles. The Treasury's order was placed with a South London firm of candle-makers back in the hot summer - just at the time when Energy Minister Peter Walker was boasting that, despite the miners' strike, "there are substantial stocks at power stations which will see us through without power cuts until at least February". I should rush while stocks last.

### Send-up

The anti-Scargill posters being plastered around Brighton by the National Working Miners' Committee reached one place no-one expected - the bedroom of Arthur Scargill. I am told a "Come off it Arthur" poster was secreted into his morning papers.

### Soaring leakers

As the row over the Belgrano leaks continues, defenders of Whitehall's moles have reminded us of the pre-war civil servants who leaked vital secret information to Sir Winston Churchill for his criticism of Britain's inadequate air defences. One of the officials is Sir Michael Creswell, then a young member of the Foreign Office who worked on the assessments of Germany's air strength leaked by his superior. At one point he wrote to Churchill directly, asking for the reply to be sent to his club, "not to the Foreign Office". His indiscretions did not harm his career. Sir Michael, who celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday this month, became ambassador to Argentina.

BARRY FANTONI



"Thank heavens, another mason - I'd know the secret arrest anywhere"

### E for effort

A "school sneak" has leaked a confidential document to the diary exposing an embarrassing arithmetical error made by students of the Open University. The university's student association overspent its budget for their Warwick conference in March by £7,000, and will tomorrow meet in Milton Keynes to devise ways to make up the loss. Besides widely misjudging the number of conference delegates, the university blundered in multiplying the figure for catering and accommodation: wrong by £5,480. The association's new secretary, John Needham, assures me: "For next year's conference I've checked the calculation five times."

PHS

# Meeting is such sweet sorrow

Paul Routledge asks if the miners and the coal board are ready to settle

The question on everyone's lips as the miners and the National Coal Board gingerly prepare for their weekend negotiations is: "Just when is it all going to end, and how?" The pit strike has gone on so long, the parties are so deeply entrenched and the personalities so abrasive, that peace seems to be an illusion.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, yesterday rephrased his formal invitation to the talks, taking out the reference to collieries that are "uneconomic" but he made it clear that his objective is to rid the industry of high-cost capacity. In that, he has the support of the Prime Minister, who expressed his confidence in him.

Judging by Mr Scargill's self-confident, even jaunty, demeanour you would think he has been in training for this all his life. He lost weight (deliberately, he insists) and looks in fighting trim. He spars with the media, mostly good-humouredly, but his temper flares when he becomes irritated. In the negotiations he doggedly pursues an intransigent line, repeating time and time again that the National Union of Mineworkers will not concede on the central issue of closing the pits that the coal board judge to be uneconomic.

Scargill's intransigence against his adversary has obviously not improved the negotiating climate. MacGregor makes light of the insults, and dishes out as good as he gets: it sets a new level of labour relations abuse when the chairman of a nationalised industry accuses the leader of the main union in it of lying in his teeth. He has apparently told a meeting of managers in the Midlands that if it would help, he

would step down from the negotiations. But there is no question of Scargill matching his magnanimous gesture. The credit for victory or blame for defeat will be his and his alone.

There are pressures on both sides to reach a settlement, but the scope for the time-honoured shabby compromise is limited. MacGregor makes no secret of wanting to restore full management control in the industry so that he can shut high-cost pits and balance the books. He is a new kind of chairman who puts the interests of the taxpayer and the energy consumer first, rejecting the traditional cosy conspiracy of the industry's management and unions to run it as a private club with unrestricted access to the public purse.

Scargill wants a deal that not only perpetuates the old regime, but makes the NUM the dominant partner in the relationship. A colliery could only be closed if the NUM agreed that it had no reserves that are workable, "or which can be developed". And there are no uneconomic pits, Mr Scargill argues; only pits that have not had enough investment put into them. In other words, the industry is a bottomless pit into which taxpayers' money is poured.

It is difficult to see how those two positions can be reconciled, despite Scargill's bland assertion yesterday that a settlement could be reached "in a few hours". One side or the

other will have to give way on the principle of who shuts the pits, and on what basis. The Government would find it very hard to live with a deal that gives - or even appears to give - the whip hand to Scargill.

Shortly before Parliament rose in July, Energy Minister Mr Giles Shaw insisted that the NUM had to recognize the necessity of shutting down uneconomic capacity. They steadfastly refused to do so, and the drift back to work in the coalfields is not yet strong enough to compel them to back down.

However, other pressures are mounting on the parties. The TUC has now gained a leverage in the dispute through this week's congress decision to coordinate supportive action. Scargill insists that he has an undertaking that the TUC will not "interfere" with the conduct of the negotiations.

But the moderates who control the general council are already saying that that is not on, that the price of TUC support is TUC involvement in the peace process, and that the NUM will be leant on to reach an accommodation. Some of them would accept the coal board's final offer, which permits the closure of collieries that have no reserves that can be "beneficially developed"; or, at least, something very like it.

There are also political pressures. Labour leaders would like to see an end to this interminable conflict which is thought to be hampering

the party's recovery. Preferably, they want it over before the party conference in Blackpool in a month's time, before it becomes a rerun of the TUC's which has been little more than a glorified miners' rally. The miners have a motion down calling for total support for their strike which would carry, and would link Labour and the pit confrontation together firmly in the public mind.

By contrast, there is every incentive for the Government to spin out the peace process so that Mr Scargill cannot be seen to win (or even draw) before the Tory Party conference next month, in the same conference hall where the NUM president won his standing ovation four days ago.

The pressures on the board are of a rather different character. According to confidential NCB papers leaked to the NUM, the NCB lost £450m in the first quarter of this financial year, excluding interest payments and social payments which would take that figure over the £700m mark. Mother Nature is also making her impact. Sixteen faces have already been lost, and many others are giving cause for concern as the relentless pressures of geology reshapes the underground coalfield. And the capacity is being lost in the wrong places, from the board's point of view.

But the invitation to talks at the weekend does not show any inclination on the part of the board to back off on its insistence that capacity must be reduced by four million tonnes, equivalent to 30 pits and 20,000 jobs. There is clearly a lot of very hard bargaining ahead.

## Richard Ford on the questions still being asked about a shooting in Ulster



Seamus Grew (left), Roddy Carroll; police at the site of the shooting; the car has still not been released for examination

Almost two years since the Royal Ulster Constabulary shot dead unarmed terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland, their families' representatives have not seen case papers for the inquest. Neither have the police - carrying out their own inquiry - released the car in which the men died for the families' own experts to examine forensically.

This delay, which has just become known, has fuelled even further the suspicion and controversy surrounding the deaths of Irish National Liberation Army volunteers Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll. One Roman Catholic coroner has resigned after finding "grave irregularities" in police files on the case. His deputy, the son of a former assistant chief constable who had operational responsibilities at the time of the shooting, has withdrawn from the case because of "professional commitment" and a third coroner has publicly rebuked his colleague for quitting, suggesting that it was his duty to clear up the affair.

That is exactly what many people in the province are waiting for, although the latest furore seems likely to delay still further the inquest until perhaps early next year. By then, according to Mr Gus Campbell, the solicitor representing both families, "the death of Grew and Carroll will have paleled into insignificance" compared with the importance of what is revealed about the workings of the police.

The effects of the incident are still being felt, especially among the nationalist community, whose growing alienation from the forces of law and order has been a central preoccupation of current Anglo-Irish negotiations.

The two men were the last to be shot during a period of several weeks in which the RUC killed six nationalists during three separate incidents in County Armagh. In the last three months of 1982, 47 people

died in the Armagh area. The escalating violence brought serious pressure from Unionists for the police to take decisive action. Increased police manpower was drafted in and the RUC heightened its profile. Following this shift, three unarmed Provisional IRA terrorists were killed after their car was hit with 109 bullets, a youth was killed at a farm's outbuildings, and 18 days later, on December 12, Grew and Carroll were shot dead when 19 bullets were pumped into their car near a strongly Republican housing estate.

The shootings highlighted the vicious circle of security policies in the province. Remoteless terrorism increases loyalist demands for tough measures, but these evoke nationalist outrage, fuelling still further Protestant protest. Actions which strengthen Protestant confidence heighten nationalist suspicions that a "shoot-to-kill" policy was being operated by the security forces, a suspicion apparently confirmed for many when Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior admitted that special anti-terrorist squads existed within the RUC. It's a no-win situation, and as one lawyer put it: "The British are the poor losers, kicked from both sides. It's a circle they cannot square."

Each incident was investigated by the Director of Public Prosecutions and four officers were charged with murder. Inevitably there were

accusations from Unionist politicians that the Government was throwing the sop of a "police show-trial" to unappealing Republicans.

The four officers were tried and acquitted earlier this year in circumstances which did nothing to end the controversy. It was the evidence given during the trial of a police constable accused of murdering Mr Grew, however, that has continued to raise suspicion.

The officer was part of a heavily armed squad known as the Special Support Unit, trained by the SAS at Hereford in "fire power, speed and aggression". The unit had been drafted into Armagh after an informer indicated that Dominic McGlinchey was to be brought across the border by the two men.

An elaborate undercover operation was launched to detain him, but it was only when the shooting ended that the police apparently realized he was not in the car, and that both men had been unarmed.

Many people in the nationalist community could not understand why, if police wanted to arrest the two men for questioning about suspected terrorist activity, they did not do so in the weeks preceding the shooting, when they were walking the streets of their homecity.

As well as the concern aroused by the special unit, and the shooting itself, Constable Robinson dropped a bombshell in the court proceedings. In unchallenged evidence Robinson said that senior police

officers had helped him concoct a story covering up events leading to the killing, aimed at concealing a Special Branch incursion across the border, army surveillance activities, and the identity of an informer.

The story said the terrorists' car crashed through a police checkpoint, injuring an officer, that police followed in a standard vehicle and that they indicated to Grew that they were RUC officers by waving a portable flashing blue light. In fact there was no checkpoint, he had travelled in an unmarked Peugeot car, and waved his cap to indicate he was a policeman. The real story only emerged when Robinson was told by senior officers he could say anything he wished and would not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act. The RUC was then seen to have lied in its original version of events, badly damaging its credibility with both the public and the media, while the ramifications of the Special Branch operating in the Republic led to a diplomatic row between London and Dublin.

The row only ended with a fulsome apology from the British ambassador, a promise that the Irish government would be kept fully informed of an inquiry into the cover-up, and further concern in Dublin government circles at the leadership of the RUC by Sir John Hermon.

The coroner's resignation has again raised fears that the truth of what happened will never be known. His tactics have been privately criticized, with many arguing that he should have remained in office and attempted to expose the "irregularities" of the police files in open court. As father Denis Paul, a Roman Catholic priest, said: "The murder trial did not bring out the facts, but it did reveal the cover story. All this should leave the public with a grave sense of dissatisfaction." It is a feeling widely shared throughout the nationalist community.

While Sikorski inspects Polish troops in the Middle East, a soldier breaks ranks and cries that his wife and family are in the Soviet Union and he fears for them. The audience, some of them veterans of the Sikorski years, others part of the Solidarity generation, managed to raise an ironic cheer when soon after the German attack on Poland, the Russians announce that they will move into eastern Poland. "It's Radio Moscow," says a Polish radio operator. "They say because Poland is now without a government the Russians will now look after the minorities on Poland's eastern territory."

Not even as faithful a communist as Mr Poreba could camouflage the cynicism of Poland's eastern neighbour.

Roger Boyes

## David Watt Even Mrs T needs a TUC

The TUC's debate on the miners' strike on Monday was like a play by Eugene O'Neill - great theatre but so depressing that one could hardly bear to stay to the end. The Master himself could scarcely have devised a grimmer scenario of sad, self-deluding, articulate characters hopelessly tearing each other's illusions to bits in a doomed environment which is itself a parable of a doomed culture inside a doomed universe.

The saddest and most tragic victims of illusion, clearly, were the older statesmen of the movement. Their much criticized desire for a quiet life and the appearance of fraternal solidarity at all costs is not really the point. These agonies of inward and outward conviction about the nature of the TUC's role. These men still think of it as an estate of the realm, with "standing", "influence", "authority". Its leaders are supposed to reach a sober consensus after which it can talk to government, and discipline its members with the full weight of its British working class behind it. Mr Ian Murray and Co. are not quite so besotted as to imagine that this situation actually exists today but they evidently foster the belief that it can be restored.

Mr Gavin Laird gave the clue to this when he kept saying that the situation had been transformed in the last week because the miners had finally come to talk to the TUC general council as "the government of this movement". Like some weak late-medieval monarch he believes that if a threatening and obstreperous baron can be induced to bend the knee and reaffirm the oath of allegiance, that act in itself will constitute a humiliation of the rebel sufficient to restore the authority of the Crown.

This is a fond hope. There is no reason to suppose that as a result of pressure from this freshly refurbished "authority" Mr Scargill will be more likely to moderate his negotiating position, or condemn picket violence or do anything that would bring an actual settlement nearer. Why should he, when he knows that the stately blessing now conferred on his actions - for what that is worth - cannot be formally removed without an impossible loss of face? The TUC's famous new "voice in the miners' dispute" has no more substance than one of those unheeded, robotic utterances that tells you to fasten your seatbelt.

What is even more galling is that the rest of the barons show no signs of being really prepared to pay more than temporary lip-service to the general council's divine right either. The truth is that the mystique of the TUC as a "government" has completely evaporated in the last five years - the victim of recession, of Conservative snubs and, above all, the gradual democratization of unions and "bourgeoisification" of individual unionists. The attempt to reconstruct it on a basis of verbiage may be the least of the unintended available evils, but it will nevertheless only make matters worse in the long run.

Of course Mr Scargill has his own illusions, though it is fashionable to suppose that, as a diabolically cynical Marxist, he has none. All through his two speeches on Monday genuine sentimentality and vanity kept breaking out from behind the cold-blooded demagoguery. But his fundamental illusion goes deeper than that. It is that he can move the entire Labour movement to the left, and with it the country, by the force of his example.

Philip Howard

## Good reason, do not desert me

Astrology is bunk. Even those of us who would have trouble beating a beagle in a general intelligence test must dimly apprehend that the conjunction of the stars at the time of our births has as little effect on the rest of our lives as the state of the yam crop in the Trobriand Islands. All that astrology is good for is transferring money from the gullible to the charlatans. And yet millions of intelligent people in our supposedly advanced western society turn without embarrassment to read what double-tongued codswallop is predicted by the stars this week for those born under the sign of Scorpio or Aquarius.

Every schoolboy knows that there are no monsters in Loch Ness; only discarded potato crisp packets and other garbage. That does not stop us lapping up the latest garbage about the monster. The public prints up in darkest Ayrshire are full of the latest wheeze to trap Nessie in a gigantic monstertrap baited with old fish. The Loch Ness monster is, of course, the original and classic silly season story for stirring up a bit of sensationalism in August, before the news starts to flow again with the new terms of everything from school to Parliament. But we go on half believing the old malarkey. And there is money to be made from monsters by the armful.

Noah's Ark is another old chimera that has resurfaced. As usual in the silly season Mount Ararat and other protruberances in western Turkey are infested by fat-headed American pseudo-scientists claiming to be on the point of rediscovering the ark. We do not go into how the old boat, 300 cubits by 50 by 30, and accordingly conspicuous, has stuck up there all these millennia without being seen by the passing Armenian shepherd, and without crumbling to dust. I dare say that gopher wood putrefies easily.

Note in passing rapidly by the ark, like an Armenian shepherd, the "scientists" exploring for such monsters seldom come from the relevant scientific discipline. Few

Mr Kinnoch's speech on Tuesday, stripped of its rhetorical flourishes, indicated that it will not happen in the Labour Party either. The Labour leadership has realized that people are simply fed up with the strike and pretty well everyone remotely connected with it, starting with Mr Scargill but not excluding Mr Kinnoch himself, for which reason, the demands of left-wingers like Messrs Benn, Haffer and Skinner for total Labour Party identification with the miners have been, and will continue to be, resisted whatever temporary lunacies may be demanded or even perpetrated at the party conference next month.

These various illusions are taken away? Unless some totally unexpected breakthrough occurs in the next week or two, the best that they can hope for is that the Government will get into serious difficulties over power supply by next spring - the only eventuality that will induce Mrs Thatcher to settle on terms that would allow miners (and now the TUC) to "hold their heads high", as Mr Murray put it.

This will not be the result of any additional solidarity from other unions and certainly not from any change of heart by the power workers - but it might conceivably be the effect of a gradual attrition of coal stocks at the existing rate. If this starts to look likely (and it may not) a new definition of an "uneconomic" pit will be discovered and the dispute will end amid more or less plausible claims of victory from NCB, miners, government and TUC alike.

This would undoubtedly be humiliating for Mrs Thatcher and it might even (after a discreet interval) put her personal position at risk. It would certainly be the end of Mr MacGregor. But it would not remove the Government, nor make public opinion think any better of union power, nor make the Conservatives any less determined to curb it.

Is there anything else, then, that the unions can realistically look forward to as the curtain comes down on this painful scene? Just possibly. For the scene itself, even if it adds less than nothing to anyone's enthusiasm for the Labour movement in its present state, indicates against the general, indignant, and robotic utterances that tells you to fasten your seatbelt.

More subtly, the pathetic rout in the Brighton conference hall must make any thoughtful person more dubious about the conventional Thatcherite wisdom about trade unions in general. The Government has deliberately set out to cut them down to size and has succeeded so well that it has left itself with virtually no responsible interlocutor on the labour scene.

This is a disaster of the first magnitude even in the Government's own terms. For if one accepts what the Chancellor and the "liberal" economists allege, that much unemployment is caused by workers pricing themselves out of jobs, the problem still arises of how to persuade workers to price themselves into them. The present political and economic situation is hardly a convincing advertisement for leaving this task to the slow, haphazard cruelty of market forces. But if not the market, what remains? Like Mr Scargill, Mrs Thatcher may yet find she needs a TUC after all.

genuine astronomers go in for astrology. There are not many marine biologists paddling about in Loch Ness. The chaps looking for Noah tend not to be professional archaeologists, in the same way that the chaps intent on authenticating the holy shroud of Turin tend to be space technicians from NASA.

There is an inveterate and insatiable human appetite for wonders and monsters. St Paul found that even the Athenians, the intellectuals of his age, spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing, they preferred a prodigy for the silly season. Mender Pinar, Munchausen, Sir John Mandeville, Casagiro, Salamanazar, Tom Keating and the forgers of the Hitler diaries are a tiny fraction of the golden horde who have profited from our bottomless credulity.

No sooner had the French Revolution abolished superstition and brought in the Age of Reason, than it introduced a rational republican religion. And hocus pocus hocus was too. Carlyle and Robespierre's new deity inferior to a Mumbo-Jumbo of the African woods. A fellow Jacobin said: "With your *Erre Suprême* you are beginning to be a bore."

But let us not be smug about this. Reason is good, and irrationality is bad. We must do our best to maximize reason and diminish irrationality. But man is not a very rational animal. All of us, even the most hard-headed, are bundles of superstitions and silliness. We may be able to sneer at astrology and pat out our tongues at Nessie. But guth us on our blind sides, and you will find us trembling. Look at the depressing popularity of pernicious cults that make Robespierre's Mumbo-Jumbo look sensible. Consider the modern "scientific" Mumbo-Jumbo of much psychology, linguistics, sociology. Why, even I have been known to shiver with a sense of evil at the Lion Gate of Mycenae.





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## WHY SO SECRETIVE?

Freemasonry, a secretive (not secret) society, has had a fairly benign reputation in this country. Unlike its continental derivatives it has drawn down neither the anathema of the church nor the proscription of the state. Conspiracy theorists have sniffed at it but have not run riot. It has enjoyed the benefit of the Englishman's indulgence towards eccentricity. From the outside, on the observable evidence, it looks like something people get into in order to get different things out of: moral uplift, the frisson of the occult, mystic theatre (its *Magic Flute* dimension), a channel for charitable activity, the roarian pleasures of life, business or professional insurance, a leg up in the world.

Yet it has run into a bad patch as regards the public estimation in which it is held. The sharpest thing to hit it so far is the assessment written by Mr Albert Lougharne, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, in the form of advice to the members of his force to be incorporated in a new handbook of professional behaviour. The advice, to state it baldly, is that the "president" officer will steer clear of freemasonry.

The attraction of freemasonry for police officers, especially the senior ranks, troubles the minds of other policemen for several reasons. There have been attested cases of policemen coming into the company of criminals in their masonic lodges, where in the atmosphere of secrecy and fraternity, the contact has degenerated into criminal association. There is the fairly common suspicion that some policemen who are masons

improperly favour other policemen who are masons, especially in selection and promotion; and that improper influence may extend to police committees. And there is the suspicion that in their dealings with members of the public policemen who are masons may be inclined to show similar favour.

The Lougharne advice points out that much of this is conjecture, unsupported by evidence, but "some of the assertions have been supportable and the activities of some freemasons have been thought, on reasonable grounds, to be motivated by self interest and not committed to the declared aims of freemasonry". Therefore, although an officer who is a freemason may take great care to ensure that he does not influence him in the exercise of his police powers, "he may find it impossible to convince a member of the public, or a colleague who is not a freemason, that this is always so". In other words membership of the institution compromises the policeman's necessary appearance of impartiality, and so it is desirable that a policeman should not be a freemason.

If that conclusion is fair it is important, since it would apply *a fortiori* to the judiciary and magistracy. It would apply also to civil servants with discretionary functions and at other points in the public service. Is it a fair conclusion?

Mr Lougharne is aware that he has to show that there is something about freemasonry to negative the appearance of impartiality, something which does not belong to other private, and selective bodies; otherwise his argument carries him much

too far for comfort. He finds it in the incompatibility of "the constable's loyal oath or declaration of impartiality" with "the sworn obligation to keep freemasonry's secrets (which holds inevitably the implication that loyalty to fellow freemasons may supersede others)".

When syntax and even spelling come under strain it is often a sign that the logic they are struggling to express is falling apart itself. So here. There is no obvious implication that an oath to keep secrets about a society creates an obligation to be partial in favour of members of the society in a situation external to the society where there already exists a sworn obligation to act impartially. Some freemasons may carry on like that. They would be very much at fault, but the fault is theirs and not in any obvious or direct way the fault of freemasonry.

So one is left with the aura of secrecy, which is what gives rise or gives body to the not uncommon suspicion that freemasons cannot be trusted to act impartially between their fellows and the rest. It is a suspicion the police, who have a large task ahead in clearing themselves of that type of generalized suspicion whatever its source, do well to take seriously. It would help them, and help freemasonry itself with its public face, if the institution were to drop its secretiveness and be more open about its objects and practices.

The Duke of Kent, its royal patron and a high office holder, spoke earlier this year as if a change in that direction could be expected. The need for it is greater now even than when he spoke.

## AN ACID REPORT

A corrosive report on acid rain from a Commons select committee, followed by a caustic rejoinder from the Central Electricity Generating Board, warning that its proposals are based on fundamental errors and might raise electricity prices by ten per cent; there is urgent need for a reliable witness paper to indicate where sweet-flavoured truth lies between these harsh extremes. Meanwhile all over Europe trees are withering, fish are dying and stonework is crumbling in the rain that falls while the issue is energetically and endlessly debated.

Relations between Canada and the USA have been soured by the problem, and even the Soviet Union, by far the largest producer of acid pollution in Europe, has recently conceded that pollution is not merely an ailment of capitalism. The British government's attitude to all this is felt by some of our neighbours to be complacent, and marked by a certain studied nonchalance.

No such criticism can be made of the select committee's report. At the outset it declares its intention of using the words "acid rain" in "their widest and most inaccurate sense" and thenceforward feels free to censure witnesses sharply if their evidence treats them in a

however, "the same danger does not exist in respect of trout".

Much of this is lurid stuff, and in truth the effects of pollution are unpleasant, sometimes dangerous, and often expensive to repair. But the report's indiscriminating approach makes little attempt to apportion blame for different effects, or to match either the form or cost of its proposals with the evils to be remedied. It is little concerned with distinguishing between localised urban pollution, and those long-distance effects, often involving complex and little-understood chemical processes, which have aroused most recent international concern.

The committee find it a simple matter to say what Britain should be doing about all this. Sulphur emissions here have already been cut since 1970 by more than the 30 per cent to which other nations (none of which has as good a record as ours) have now committed themselves. But the committee point out accurately that this reduction was made chiefly by general industry and hardly at all by electricity generation, which in 1964 accounted for less than half the national sulphur output, but today causes twice as much as all other sources together. Therefore the entire burden of the proposed reduction in pollution - not of 30 per cent by 1995 but of 60 - is placed on the power stations. Car manufacturers are severely criticized for taking too little account of the serious effects caused by ozone derived from nitrogen emissions

from vehicles - but then the committee forgets about nitrogen and lets the car industry off without any definite call for tighter controls. Curiously enough, the MPs show no eagerness to see our highly sulphurous home-mined coal replaced by imports or by more nuclear power.

Superficial as it is to load all the burden on one culprit, and one chemical, it can be taken for granted that the CEB's anguished reaction to the report contains an element of special pleading. Even granting its assumptions, a ten per cent increase in electricity prices between now and 1995 is not necessarily a prospect to make the blood run cold (how much have they gone up since 1973?). In the continuing effort to reduce pollution in the years ahead, the power stations will certainly have to make a major contribution. The developing technology of fluidised bed combustion promises in the medium term to allow great reductions in power station pollution and better economy of operation at the same time. The "lean-burn" engine promises a similar leap forward in vehicle technology. Shorter term remedies, like retrofitting of power stations, tend to be costly both in installation and in reduced efficiency.

On present evidence, the problem is of an urgency which dictates steady advance towards the major improvements which are in clear prospect, but not hasty measures to bring quicker reductions at far higher cost.

Spain accepts that EEC membership must entail free movement of goods and persons in both directions. Indeed she is keen to take advantage of this as soon as possible to gain access for her own nationals to the labour market both in Gibraltar and elsewhere in the EEC. But for the EEC as a whole it is accepted that this access will be granted only after a fairly long transitional period: the Community is at present proposing seven years, while Spain is arguing for a review after five. In exchange for the full opening of the frontier, Spain is suggesting that Britain should waive the transitional period as far as Gibraltar is concerned, giving

Spaniards the right to work and reside there without delay. That suggestion will hardly be welcome in Gibraltar, where the imminent transfer of the naval dockyard to commercial use has caused nearly 800 redundancies. But in spite of this there is general overemployment in Gibraltar, with several thousand expatriate workers, mostly British and Moroccan. The exclusion of Spain from this labour market is an anomaly which Spain has brought on herself, but which clearly should be corrected on economic as well as political grounds.

If we insist on applying the full transitional period in Gibraltar, there is obviously a danger that Spain on its side will insist on phasing out the frontier controls equally gradually. For Britain to meet such a threat with a counterthreat of vetoing Spain's entry altogether would surely be to allow a relatively small disagreement to do a disproportionate amount of damage to the EEC, to Nato (which Spain might easily leave on the rebound from a rebuff by the EEC), and most of all to Gibraltar itself.

## THE ROCK BECOMES AN OBSTACLE

Something of a crisis has now been reached in the negotiations over Spanish entry into the European Community. A special meeting of the Community's council of ministers is to be held in Dublin early next week to discuss the issue, and the Spanish prime minister, Senor Felipe Gonzalez, is to visit Dublin the week after next for talks with the Irish leaders who currently occupy the Community chair.

After that visit, London will be the only EEC capital Senor Gonzalez has not been to since he took office at the end of 1982. The omission can hardly be the result of oversight, though it is true that Spanish membership poses fewer direct economic problems for Britain than for almost any other member-state and that politically Spain has enjoyed British support from the start. But what should be a close entente between London and Madrid remains a cool and awkward relationship because of the Gibraltar problem.

Both sides hope that Spain's entry into the EEC will ease that problem, but there is a lurking

danger that the problem itself could become an additional obstacle, causing Britain to block Spanish entry at the last minute instead of helping to smooth the path. Mrs Thatcher told the House of Commons in July last year that Spain will not come in until the restrictions on the border are fully lifted. (So far, only Spanish and Gibraltarian pedestrians are allowed to cross in either direction.)

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## Industrial future put in doubt

From the President of the SDP

Sir, It is very hard to believe that the Government's left hand knows what its right hand is doing, and vice versa.

In response to urgent representations from industry that shortage of skills in information technology are now so serious they could threaten our future markets, the Department of Trade and Industry established a committee under John Butcher, MP, its Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

In its recommendations last month on measures to meet immediate skill needs, the Butcher committee cited the importance of distance-learning techniques in general, and specifically praised the SERC/Open University scheme to provide masters courses in manufacturing and in the industrial applications of computers.

Meanwhile, in another department's part of the field, the Open University, which has taught a quarter of a million people through distance-learning, is fighting the biggest cut in its short life, £13.5m over the next three years, the most severe of any higher education institution.

Future course development is one of the areas likely to be reduced, including computer courses. The courses commended by Mr Butcher are under review and their future may depend on the Science and Engineering Research Council's ability to continue its pump-priming grant. I forgot to add: the SERC's budget is being cut in real terms, too.

If there is to be an industrial future for Britain we will need far more and far better qualified men and women. So says the Government. Meanwhile the Government itself cuts the budgets for universities, civil research and further education, axing deadwood and saplings alike.

If such contradictions continue, one thing is certain: there won't be an industrial future.

Yours sincerely,  
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, President,  
Social Democratic Party,  
4 Cowley Street, SW1,  
September 4.

## Survival of literacy

From Mr Andrew Bluhm

Sir, The criticism of declining standards of book production, expressed by Mr A. Griffin (September 1), though largely justified, appears to miss the point.

Luxury services such as craft bookbinding will always exist so long as there are people rich enough to pay for them. The more important question is not the survival of traditional standards of book production, but the survival of literacy.

Cheap methods, whether nasty or otherwise, help to maintain the mass circulation of the printed word, which, with all its dangers, remains the basis of our form of civilisation.

I might prefer to receive an illuminated manuscript each morning instead of a copy of your newspaper, but economic factors compel us all to be satisfied with a compromise in production standards in favour of more important considerations.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW BLUHM,  
22 Weston Park,  
Thames Ditton,  
Surrey,  
September 1.

## Killings in Iran

From the Most Reverend Dr Trevor Huddleston

Sir, Your correspondent's account (August 29) of the killings of some of the 300,000 Iranian Bahais makes horrifying reading, even in these days of mass murders by governments.

Certainly if this account is true it is intolerable to the Christian conscience that the EEC Committee should think of easing economic sanctions against Iran whilst the oppression of minority religious groups continues.

But it is not time - and more than time - that all Christians, Jews, Buddhists and Muslims made an effective protest on behalf of the Bahais? No religious group that I know of has been more consistent in its witness to peaceful, non-violent means of persuasion nor more tolerant of religious diversity.

Obedience to lawful government, even when that government uses its power to kill its adversaries, is a cardinal principle of the Bahai faith. We cannot let these martyrdoms occur and remain silent.

Yours faithfully,

TREVOR HUDDLESTON,

St James's Vestry,

197 Piccadilly, W1,

August 31.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tangled skeins in liberation theology

From Dr Giles Mercer

Sir, In the controversy over liberation theology there are three distinct issues which some of your correspondents seem to have tangled.

The first is the question of how far the institutions of Church and state or, more widely, of the spiritual and temporal powers should impinge upon each other. This is a matter that has profoundly affected Christianity from the start and is evident, for example, in the struggle which surrounded the papal states until 1929 and in the medieval practice, vigorously opposed at times, of churchmen serving in civil office.

The current matter of priests holding posts in Latin American governments is merely the latest manifestation of a tension that may never be resolved.

The second issue concerns what the clerical order should do when it abhors the policies and actions of a regime.

Should it confine itself to the provision of spiritual comforts to the faithful, as it did to a large extent during the era of European fascism? Should it go further and use the pulpit to lift the morale of the oppressed and give measured encouragement to every kind of peaceful demonstration, as in Poland? Or should it go yet further and lend its active support to the overthrow of the regime, by force if necessary, using the argument of a just war (defined by St Augustine and developed by Aquinas)?

It is doubtful whether a ruling over this whole issue could be laid down to suit all circumstances at all times.

The third issue is whether Marxism and Christian theology are compatible. Christian theologians have, of course, borrowed concepts and language from non-Christian thought in the past, notably Platonism and Aristotelianism, but only as aids to a clearer exposition of Christian doctrine. Marxism cannot be so used, since, in essentials, it

runs counter to Christianity, for reasons which are admirably advanced by Cardinal Ratzinger.

To subtract Marxism from liberation theology will be, one suspects, the least of Rome's problems. It will still be left with the decision of what the "preferential option for the poor" is to mean in practice.

Yours faithfully,  
GILES MERCER,  
5 Honeycombe Rise,  
Sherborne, Dorset,  
September 4.

From the Reverend Father J. F. Wellington

Sir, Mr Robert Davis's lengthy reply (September 4) to Fr Nichols (August 29) falls flat on its face at the final hurdle. In his ultimate paragraph he heralds the "belief of many Catholics that the process at work in Latin America offers us the possibility of a Church freed from a dubious contract with political power". Is it not this very contract which is at issue in the case of the priest in the Nicaraguan government?

On what theological grounds can he differentiate between "a priest seeking office in an advanced democracy" and one in a "post-revolutionary crisis"? No doubt the Church in Nicaragua has a moral duty to lend its considerable weight to the building of a just society, but this does not necessitate the personal involvement of its priesthood in the secular power.

Such involvement, whether in Latin America or Europe, serves only to diminish the Church's prophetic role, thereby granting a spiritual absolutism to the prevailing temporal order. Therein lies an inherent danger of begetting the kind of dubious contract which both Mr Davis and I abhor.

Yours sincerely,  
J. F. WELLINGTON,  
Parish of St Luke Stocking Farm,  
Halifax Drive,  
Stocking Farm Estate, Leicester,  
September 4.

### Church and state

From the Reverend Jonathan P. Eades

Sir, I was interested to read Fr Aidan Nichols's letter (August 29) saying that the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church, of which the Pope is patriarch, forbids clerics from holding political office. But I am not sure that this really answers the point made by the Subdean of Lincoln (August 25).

The fact is that the Pope holds political office as head of the Vatican state, which to the outsider looks very much like an instance (albeit a last vestige) of the theocratic clericalism which Fr Aidan criticises. Not only does the Vatican receive duly accredited ambassadors, but sends them to countries which will receive them in the form of papal nuncios



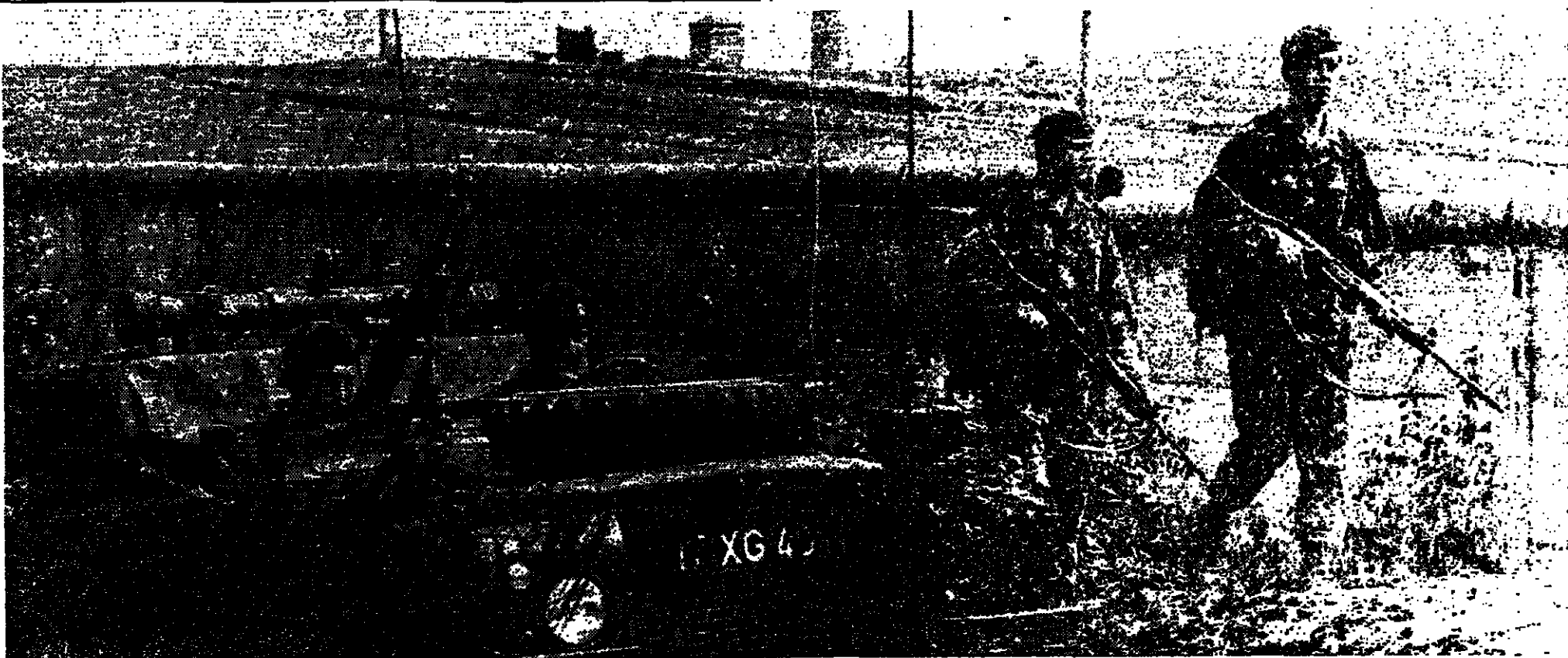






# Today's Army

More than 130,000 service personnel are involved in Exercise Lionheart which is now under way to test Britain's ability to reinforce our troops in Europe quickly and in strength.



Watch on the wall: Grenadier Guards on patrol along the frontier near Berlin

THE British Army is in better heart than for many years past. In common with the Royal Air Force it is beginning to see the fruits of a major re-equipment programme planned years ago. In many cases it is not getting the equipment as soon as it would have wished, nor in the numbers it wanted; none the less, it is advancing on several fronts.

When seen in a Nato context, this process of re-equipment is not always as productive as it might be. The achievement of standardization of equipment, or at least inter-operability, between one Nato army and another is a long and slow one.

Both General Leopold Chalupa, the German who is Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, and General Sir Nigel Bagnall, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, have this summer drawn attention to the problems of matching the equipment and tactics of national armies in such a way as to enable them to cooperate most effectively within Nato.

The classic example of this is in the introduction in this decade of three new main battle tanks for the American, West German and British armies, all with different guns, although there are moves to standardize the German and US guns.

Though other examples of progress towards harmonization of equipment could be cited, Nato seems as far as ever from finding an overall policy to reconcile the military need for as much standardization as possible, with the divergent interests of national and competing industries.

Yet the British Army will benefit greatly over the next few years from the new equipment which is on its way, and there are other factors at work which are favourable to the army.

The affliction of high unemployment among the civilian population and the fact that since the late 1970s, service pay has been brought back into line with the rewards in

comparable civilian jobs has combined to make recruitment much easier than it was a decade ago.

Since the abolition of conscription in the 1960s, Britain, unlike its European allies in Nato has settled on an all-regular, highly trained, but small army, which General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, refers to as a "crackerjack little army".

Britain's Nato allies, when considering the British Army, would probably put equal weight on Sir John's two adjectives. They admire the quality and training of the men, although they have not always equally admired their equipment, but they do occasionally allow themselves to wonder whether quality can wholly offset the lack of numbers.

The Regular Army is, of course, buttressed by the Territorial Army which the Government wants to expand to a strength of 86,000 by the end of the decade. The TA is much more than a reserve force; it is an integral part of the army's main

order of battle, a point that will be emphasized by the prominence of its role in Exercise Lionheart.

But even after taking note of the Territorials and the tiny Home Service Force, the fact remains that the regular Army is small. In the last analysis this is how the Army prefers things. It would in principle like to be bigger, but if resources are limited as they are, the Army has preferred to remain small but of high quality, rather than sacrifice quality to quantity.

Its smallness gives rise, however, to problems. Its full strength totals just over 160,000, which is only a fifth the size of the US Army, half the size of the large conscript armies of France and West Germany, and two-thirds the size of those of Italy and Spain.

This lack of size, when allied to the fact that the main bodies of forces are divided between the United Kingdom and West Germany, can mean that even a relatively small unexpected

additional commitment can leave the army feeling over-stretched.

One might have expected the position to have been eased over the last decade by the fact that the number of soldiers (other than the Ulster Defence Regiment) in Northern Ireland has declined from a peak of 22,000 in 1972 to about 9,300 today. However, in the same period the size of the Army overall has diminished even more - a reduction of about 17,000.

So a commitment like that in the Falkland Islands, where there may be around 3,000 troops stationed, when allied to the long travelling times and the periods of leave and training before and after a deployment, can leave the Army feeling a bit strained.

Pressures of this sort are reflected in the current attempt to shift about 4,000 men out of support functions and into fighting units. This may seem a small adjustment, affecting only about 2½ per cent of the total strength of the Army, but it is clear that senior officers see it as a

difficult exercise entailing delicate adjustments to what they consider an already finely balanced structure.

Such adjustments at the lower levels of the Army are paralleled both by the Army's own attempts to streamline its higher command and by the reorganization of the central defence staffs which has been imposed by Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary. This involves, among other painful changes, depriving the Army of the key post of Vice Chief of the General Staff, with equivalent losses in the other services.

There has been apprehension that this reorganization will lead to an erosion of the status and ability to offer independent advice of the CGS and his opposite numbers. The whole trend of events, with the strengthening of the role of the Chief of Defence Staff, and the policy of devolving as many functions as possible from the Ministry of defence to individual headquarters, seems to point in this direction.

However, it may be a few years before the outcome is clear. The present Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, who still has over a year of his term of office to run, seems determined to maintain the position of the single service chiefs. He clearly sees the Chiefs of Staff Committee as the vehicle for achieving this, and he is unlikely to change his practice of calling meetings of the committee roughly every week, and sometimes more often.

If, as is expected, he is succeeded late next year by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the present First Sea Lord, it would be surprising if he also did not seek to maintain the status of the single service chiefs, for he has been aligned squarely with Sir John Stanier and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff, in this summer's controversy over the position of the chiefs.

Rodney Cowton  
Defence Correspondent

## The ring of confidence around BAOR

The British Army of the Rhine, whose initials BAOR are among the most familiar in post-war Britain, is undergoing a process of change. It always is, but this time it could just be for the right reasons.

A 1,000 increase in strength, a restructuring of its order of battle (Orbat) and a range of new equipment, from tanks to telephones, have imbued the 1st British Corps it is said, with fresh sense of purpose. This year's Lionheart exercise which will test some of these changes on an unprecedented scale, should indicate whether the new spirit of confidence in West Germany is justified.

BAOR was carved out of the British occupying forces in 1946, confirming the country's neutral commitment to the stationing of a peace-time garrison on the continent. Since then it has established itself as the single most important section of the post-war Army, absorbing about one-third of its fighting strength, costing more than £2,000m a year to sustain and setting new standards in weapon procurement.

After being seen for some years as a kind of showpiece for the small but highly professional British Army, BAOR hit a bad patch in the 1970s. The block obsolescence of much of its equipment coincided with economic difficulties at home and alarm overseas over what was viewed as a growing disparity between the forces of East and West.

Pressure on cuts led to manpower reductions which led to problems of overstretch, which led to structural changes which led back to more frustration and failure.

The most fundamental change in the early 1980s has been in the divisional structure. In the middle to late 1970s the General Staff reshaped the 1st British Corps from a force of three big divisions with four brigades each into one with four smaller divisions, each of which had only two brigades or "field forces" - a briefly fashionable term. The idea was to ease manpower problems by cutting down the number of brigade headquarters.

But a number of exercises, culminating in Crusader, the 1980 forerunner of Lionheart, cruelly exposed the lack of depth and flexibility in the new divisions and also the lack of command and control without adequate staffing levels beneath that of divisional headquarters.

So the Army has now returned to the concept of three medium-sized divisions of 12,500 men, grouped into three brigades each, while a fourth (confusingly this is in fact the 2nd Division) has redeployed in Britain with orders to be back across the Channel at the first sign of serious trouble.

This sounds like another of those famous British compromises, especially as one of the 3rd Division's three brigades has also been re-located in Britain with a similar return ticket in the event of war breaking out - or looking likely.

For BAOR to have to rely upon the rapid return of one and one-third of its divisions before it is ready to start defending its 40-mile front in

Western Europe, sounds less than satisfactory. There are enough doubts already about Nato's preparedness to make the right political decisions in time.

### A formidable problem of reinforcement

The 1st British Corps already has a formidable reinforcement task. The corps would more than double in size on the outbreak of war, through the return of reserve units and individuals from Britain.

But these would be pouring in by sea and air, just as refugees and service families are pouring out - creating a horrendous traffic jam which a democracy might find hard to shift. Now the Army would seem intent upon making things worse not better, by adding 2nd Division and one brigade of 3rd Division to the melee.

On the other hand, it is not as if the number of troops in

BAOR has been reduced, quite the contrary. The number of troops has been raised from 55,000 to 56,000 to help commanders cope with the introduction of new equipment. Nor is there any real alternative for BAOR relying on rapid reinforcement of its strength.

Nearly 40 years after VE-Day, future arguments are more likely to revolve around whether Britain has too many soldiers kept at considerable expense on the continent, not whether it has too few. New equipment in the pipeline includes the Challenger tank, the tracked version of the Rapier anti-aircraft missile system and the Saxon mechanised infantry combat vehicle - an uprated armoured personnel carrier - not to mention the long-awaited Puma battle-field telephone system.

It seems ironic that at a time when there is so much talk of new technology replacing personnel on the battlefield, there should be more pressure not less, upon manpower. But new

technology is expensive and experimental, and moreover there is a new philosophical move towards conventional defence as opposed to nuclear. The result is that armies could for a time become more labour-intensive than before.

New equipment is usually good for military morale - although this in itself can hardly be said to justify a weapon programme. Challenger with its Chobham armour is arriving as a replacement for some but not all the lumbering Chieftains, almost by accident - resulting from the fall of the Shah of Iran who was the original customer.

But it is a very welcome development for the Royal Armoured Corps and the introduction of a system of half-tracked replacement (as already practised by the much larger American and West German armies) might ease procurement budgets in future.

### The chances of survival on the battlefield

But British Forces Germany have been most encouraged by the recent Nato study which credited the Warsaw Pact with less overwhelming superiority over the West than was previously thought to be the case. This together with a slightly less chilling report on war stocks, following several years of careful husbandry by ordnance staffs, has helped to make the 1st British Corps chances of survival on the battlefield look more realistic.

This is not to say that BAOR could hold out for ever against a determined Soviet conventional attack along its sector. But it might just give the Americans the breathing space they need to bring their own reinforcements across the Atlantic.

Still more important it might just make the Russians believe that this is the case. BAOR in consequence, is starting once more to raise its sights, not lower them.

Henry Stanhope



Another successful firing of the Tracked Rapier in the Hebrides

## Ready to face any threat

Though the public focus of attention in Exercise Lionheart will be on activities in West Germany, it is at least as important as a test of the effectiveness of the Army's organization in the United Kingdom as of the Army in Germany.

The UK Land Forces form the largest part of the Army, and come under the command of General Sir Frank Kitson, Commander-in-Chief, UKLF, whose headquarters are at Wilton, near Salisbury.

One of the primary tasks of his headquarters is to prepare the machinery and the men so that in a period of high tension, possibly leading up to war, Britain would be able within a few days to double the size of the British Army of the Rhine by sending formations of trained men, with all the equipment which was not already pre-stocked in Germany.

It is this above all that is being tested in the first phases of Exercise Lionheart, and particularly over the weekend of September 15 and 16 when about 30,000 members of the Territorial Army will cross to Germany.

UKLF consists of half the Regular Army, or about 80,000 soldiers, plus 71,000 members of the Territorial Army, and has about 44,000 civilian employees. The Wilton headquarters is also responsible for cadets and reservists.

The regular forces in Northern Ireland do not, however, come under the command of UKLF. There the line of command is from the General Officer Commanding direct to the Ministry of Defence.

If Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, can push through his administrative reforms, it is likely that the role of Headquarters UKLF along with that of other headquarters in the three armed services, will be strengthened over the next year or two. It is part of Mr Heseltine's philosophy not merely to push through the highest levels of the Ministry of Defence, but to devolve as many functions as possible

from the Ministry to the various headquarters.

Evidence of this trend is already reflected in the fact that a year ago the Army's individual training organization, ranging from the Staff College at Camberley and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to corps and regimental depots, were brought under the command of UKLF.

The central role of UKLF is to prepare the British Army in the UK to be ready to react in the event of a threat to the security of Nato and the UK. This breaks down into several component roles.

Sir Frank Kitson has described these as operational planning, preparational and administrative.

The operational planning involves planning for the defence of the UK, preparing arrangements for the reinforcement of the army in Germany, for the call-up of the Territorials

and Reservists, and making arrangements to handle the large numbers of US personnel and equipment who would pass through Britain in the event of a European crisis.

Sir Frank has described this as the most complicated of his headquarters functions, but it is the "preparational" work which he considers the most important. In this area he draws a distinction between the logistic installations and training organizations in the UK on the one hand, and the UK Field Army on the other.

The Field Army has a strength of about 100,000, roughly two-thirds of whom are Territorials, and 60,000 of whom would go to reinforce the British Army of the Rhine in war. About 35,000 are earmarked for the defence of Britain and there are various other smaller forces.

Apart from these Nato and home defence roles, it is primarily UKLF which would

normally provide the units for responding to any need for deployment outside the Nato area. Thus, 5 Airborne Brigade comes under UKLF, and its primary role is as the Commander-in-Chief's reserve, but it is also earmarked as the Army's main get-up-and-go force for operations outside the Nato area.

The fact that the Territorial Army accounts for about two-thirds of the UK Field Army is a strong indication of just how important these part-timers are in the overall order of battle.

Though the TA is now much smaller than in the 1960s when it had a strength of well over 100,000, its importance has if anything increased. This derives from the fact that whereas in the 1960s it operated on the basis that it would always have a period of weeks in which to bring itself up to fighting pitch if a war threatened, now it is an integral part of the immediate order of battle, with carefully determined roles. Substantial parts of it would expect to be deployed in operational roles in Germany within 48 hours of a mobilization.

RC

## Making the lion roar

Exercise Lionheart divides into three components:

● Exercise Full Flow.

This began on Monday and runs until September 20. This is the major mobilization exercise in which 57,000 service personnel, including 35,000 members of the Territorial Army and 4,500 reservists are being carried to war positions on the continent.

● Exercise Spearpoint.

This is a major field-training exercise, which runs from September 15 to 28, and will basically take place in an area bounded by Hanover in the North, and Gutersloh in the South-west and will extend east to a line discreetly short of the Inner German Border.

● Exercise Cold Fire.

Concurrently with Lionheart, other Nato countries will be holding their own national exercises, all rejoicing in names which catch the imagination, and sometimes confuse it as well. For example, the Belgians have Roaring Lion, the Germans Speedy Hedgehog, the

Americans Certain Fury. For all these, under the title Cold Fire, the air forces of Nato's central front, with a prominent role for the Royal Air Force, will be complementing the ground action with air activity. More than 4,000 sorties are expected to be flown between next Wednesday and September 28.

The low flying, the volume of military traffic trundling along the roads and the pyrotechnics seem certain to be a bit of a trial for West Germany's civilian population. The scale of the potential disturbance is perhaps reflected in the fact that £3m, about 25 per cent of the British budget for Lionheart, has been set aside for compensation for damage to civilian property.

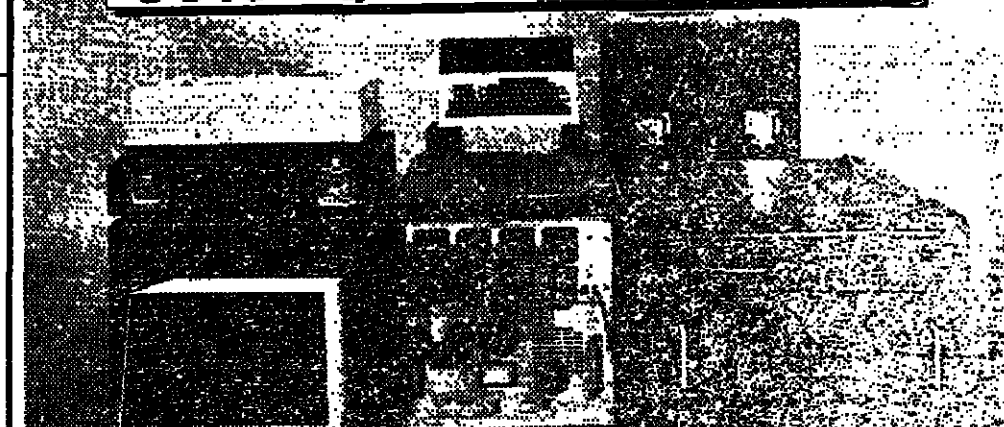
One of the major purposes of Lionheart will be to see to what extent problems revealed in 1980 in Exercise Crusader have been eliminated. Crusader was broadly similar to Lionheart, although only about 100,000 troops were involved.

Among the lessons of Crusader, an important one was the demonstration that the structure of British divisions in West Germany was not satisfactory, and this has since led to a major reorganization of them on the basis of three brigades to a division.

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# Progress all the way in arms and firepower

General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, talks to Rodney Cowton, The Times Defence Correspondent

Sir John, the Army is in the middle of a major re-equipment programme. How would you assess its significance?

Sir John Stanier: I don't think anybody would doubt that until the end of the 1970s the Army's equipment programme was in pretty much disarray and we had fallen a long way behind what was needed to keep abreast of the threat with which we were faced. I am, therefore, delighted to say that now, in the 1980s, the equipment programme has really taken off in a big way, and I think the improvements to our equipment to come about during this decade are the biggest re-equipment of the British Army since the Second World War.

Now there are some areas where we have made enormous strides and some where we have made smaller steps, and there are some obviously where there is a great deal to be done. Perhaps I could start with the good news, and I think the really good areas are to be found in terms of the anti-armour battle, in the enhancement of artillery and in the mechanization of logistics support.

To start with anti-armour operations, we have now in service the Challenger, which is going to make its debut really in Exercise Lionheart with the Royal Hussars, which is a vastly better tank than we have had for years and years.

We have got just round the corner the LAW-80 which is an enormously improved infantry anti-tank weapon. We have got TOW on Lynx helicopters, which is now in service and is a superb weapon against tanks, fired from the helicopter, and in due course we shall be upgrading the Challenger with a high pressure gun which will also be put into Challenger as well. We have a new and far more effective round in our 120mm guns so that all in all the anti-armour package is very promising indeed.

To turn to artillery, which



General Sir John Stanier with the Challenger - 'the best tank we have had for years and years ...'

has been rather neglected in the past, we have SP-70 coming into service, which is a self-propelled mode of the F4-70 which is a towed gun and which is a joint venture with our allies. Also just round the corner, though slightly further round than I would wish, because it has slipped a bit, is the multi-barrelled rocket launcher which is going to make a huge difference to our artillery capability at long range, and give enormous additional weight to our firepower.

I should add to that BATES, which is an electronic automatic data processing system, which will co-ordinate the fire of the whole Corps artillery with enormous improvements carried with it. I might say in passing that BATES will be operating in conjunction with Wavell and Pirmigan which are huge improvements in our communications capabilities. But leaving that aside, I

should like to say a word about logistics, because when you have all these new equipments coming into service they do tend to eat up huge quantities of ammunition, and ammunition is very heavy to move. Looking back to the era of the 1970s and 1960s the outloading of ammunition was simply a matter of men humping great boxes of stuff, and it makes absolutely no sense to improve your weapons systems without improving the logistics support.

One thing which is going to make a huge difference is the system called DROPS. It is a truck which can pick up a great packet of pallets without any man having to move the stuff, take them and dump the pallets wherever they are needed, and the pallets can then be picked up by fork-lift truck and carried right forward to the guns, or wherever. It is a huge step forward and of course it reduces manpower and improves the

amount of stuff you can get forward quickly.

So those are the areas where I think we are making big progress. Of the areas which have quite a lot left to hope for, the biggest is air defence. Of course, we have taken a number of steps on air defence, in the first instance self-propelled, tracked Rapier is coming into service, an enormous improvement there. Rapier itself is constantly being improved and our Falklands experience of it has done a lot to help us to improve it even further.

We are also introducing Javelin which is the shoulder-fired anti-air weapon system and that is fine, but still I judge that we have a big lack in air defence capability. I could wish for an air defence gun but at the moment we can't afford it, although we are investigating the prospect of a high velocity missile system which may take the place of a gun, but air

defence is I think perhaps our biggest lack, although of course we do look to the Royal Air Force to help us very considerably. At the end of the day they are going to be the critical people in helping to fight the air battle over the Corps area.

Do you feel that the re-organization of the central defence staffs which takes effect at the beginning of next year and which has not been welcomed by the services will affect the ability of the Army to operate fully effectively?

Sir John: The answer is that the Army will continue to operate absolutely fully effectively. I should not think that anybody in the Army below the rank of, and perhaps including the rank of, major-general will notice any difference at all. And I hope they will not because one of the parts of the re-organization lays down specifically that I am responsible for the total morale

and effectiveness of the Army, so if the Army does notice anything different, it will be my fault, so the answer is "I hope they won't."

But you said the re-organization was not welcomed by the services. I should like to say that that is nothing whatever to do with the management and running of the armed forces out in the field. The concerns about the re-organization stem entirely from the relationship of those giving advice on military matters here with the government of the day.

It is nothing to do with the effective management or running of the armed forces which will be totally unchanged.

Britain has a small, regular army backed up by the Territorial Army. Is this the best approach?

Sir John: We have a very strong, professional but small, regular army. The TA is being enhanced, and the enthusiasm and keenness and determination of the TA is something which really lifts the heart, and I think on Lionheart that is the thing that will come across more than anything else. Super people. They give up their own precious time to do it and we are enormously grateful to them for what they do. Without them we simply would not start.

If you are a professional soldier it's very attractive indeed to have a small professional regular army because you can hone the edge of it until you have a really crackjack little army. But you have to acknowledge one big limitation which we suffer, which those, with conscript armies do not.

If you look across the whole population of this country the number of men who have undergone any form of military training is a very small percentage indeed, whereas if we had had a conscript army since 1945 we would have a fair chunk of Britain's male population who had all had some measure of military training. So that if the day ever came again when we had to raise a big citizens' army we would find that the majority of the population of this country was totally untrained.

That is the disadvantage, the big disadvantage of the way we do it at the moment. But if you ask me which I prefer, I would always go for the small highly professional, regular army which we hope would be an adequate core for any expansion that we had to undertake.



A British soldier on watch in Beirut

## Soldiers at the sharp end

The Army helped Britain to acquire its empire in the nineteenth century, and is now paying the price. From the viewpoint of the General Staff there are too many corners of a foreign field which see themselves as being forever England. Garrisons have returned to Britain in a steady stream since the Second World War as, one by one, the colonies have quit the Pax Britannica. But they remain in Hongkong, Gibraltar, Cyprus, the newly independent state of Belize, while in the Falklands the size of the British presence has demonstrably swelled. Training teams and other "loan service personnel" (LSP) moreover exist in about 17 different countries - a feat which few other armies can equal.

The largest British garrison remains that in Hongkong, where most of the 9,000 British troops are land-based. But there are still more than 3,000 in Cyprus, including those serving with the United Nations, about 1,500 in Belize and 1,000 in Gibraltar. A Gurkha battalion and a training team stay on in independent Brunei at the Sultan's expense while the size of the Falklands force is officially if loosely described as "around 4,000" - although a substantial proportion of these are Royal Navy and RAF.

The pattern is not immutable. Hongkong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, a prospect which poses some interesting questions over not just the British presence there but the future of the Gurkha element within the British Army. Three of the five Gurkha battalions are stationed more or less permanently in Hongkong and it is hard to envisage their redeployment in West Germany or Northern Ireland post-1997.

The future of the Falklands garrison must be in doubt, despite the Government's repeated assurances on sovereignty - and similar uncertainty surrounds Gibraltar. As for Belize, Whitehall makes little secret of its ambition to withdraw the British force as soon as a lasting agreement can be signed with neighbouring Guatemala, or if and when Belize looks strong enough to look after its own.

Similar movement can be expected from time to time among the training teams and other LSP. The largest contingents of these are in Oman, Kuwait and Zimbabwe - where about 60 British troops are still trying to impose the disciplines of Sandhurst and Pirbright upon the former guerrilla fighters of Mr Robert Mugabe. Foreign governments change and allegiances change with them - as in Iran or, rather less dramatically, Zimbabwe.

Nationally, the provision of military personnel is an important component of foreign policy. Some of the benefits are positive in that the link between the government and the opportunity of improving trade relationships. But the negative effect of ensuring that the country concerned remains in the Western sphere of influence and does not need to seek assistance from the Eastern bloc is if anything still more crucial. A small training establishment in the darkest Africa can be worth literally more than its weight in gold, in the curious currency of power politics.

The Commonwealth, as the successor to the Empire, has placed Britain in a unique position to perform such a service as a flag-carrier for the Western alliance. Only France for similar post-colonial reasons and the United States, on

account of its wealth and superpower status, can exert comparable influence in the Third World.

These residual responsibilities of Empire restrict Britain's ability to become involved elsewhere. Successive governments have argued, with some justice, that the country already makes a substantial contribution to Nato's out-of-area interests and can not be expected to do much more. The effects have not always been impressive. British connections, although less significant than those with the United States, failed to save the Shah of Iran as a Western friend in the Gulf. Nor did the British presence do much for Cyprus in 1974.

On the other hand, Belize remains an oasis of stability in Central America while Britain can take considerable credit for the defeat of communist-backed rebels in Southern Oman in the

**The largest British garrison is in Hongkong, where most of the 9,000 British troops are land-based. But there are still more than 3,000 in Cyprus, including those serving with the United Nations, about 1,500 in Belize and 1,000 in Gibraltar**

10 years between 1965 and 1975.

The Special Air Service deserve special mention too for providing a pool of expertise upon which friendly nations have drawn in the past, in their fight against international terrorism. The SAS were at one time promising in Oman in helping to train loyalist guerrillas in the Dhofar region.

Although the Government has had to resist calls for a Rapid Deployment Force on the lines of that created by the United States, the Falklands crises demonstrated the advantage of having a kind of task force of "ever-readies" which could be dispatched to trouble-spots in a hurry.

A study was started after the war in the South Atlantic with the result that Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, announced last year that 5th Infantry Brigade at Aldershot was henceforth to be known as 5th Airborne Brigade and would be tasked with this out-of-area role.

The brigade's primary job remains that of the mobile reserve for the commander-in-chief of the United Kingdom Land Forces. But two of the three battalions are in-role units of the Parachute Regiment, while the addition of an armoured reconnaissance regiment, a helicopter support squadron, a Blowpipe air-defence troop, signals and ordnance personnel and a field ambulance have given it the look of an all-purpose, light fighting unit.

The brigade's ability for foreign intervention will remain limited. But it could have an important role in the evacuation of British civilians from some distant land or the protection of some installations which are important to Western interests and could equally combine usefully with some other larger force, British or perhaps American, to exert a stabilizing influence over a crisis of even bigger proportions. It sounds like a British compromise which could just work.

HS

## The heavyweight at the heart of the 'battle'

One of the striking features of this month's Exercise Lionheart is that it will involve three of the world's latest and most potent tanks: the West German Leopard 2, the American M-1 Abrams and the British Challenger.

Leopard-2 and the Abrams have been entering service in increasing numbers during the past few years, but for Challenger the process has only just begun, with just one regiment, the Royal Hussars, so far equipped with them.

On present plans the army will ultimately have five regiments, totalling about 300 tanks, equipped with Challenger, a figure which has to be set against the German plans for

1,800 Leopard-2s and the US Army's ambition to have more than 7,000 Abrams by the mid-1990s. America's planned production rate of 60 a month compares with the present rate of Challenger production by the Royal Ordnance Factory at Leeds of seven a month.

Challenger is the heavyweight of the trio, at 60 tons about five tons heavier than either Leopard-2 or the Abrams. It is significantly slower on roads than the US and German tanks, although some British officers contend that its exceptional suspension will enable Challenger to travel at least as fast across rough country as the other two.

Challenger is in direct line of descent from the Chieftain,

which has been in service since the 1960s, and which has been, and continues to be, steadily upgraded to extend its capabilities and useful life. Though Challenger's legitimacy is not, therefore, in doubt, it joined the army's family of tracked vehicles by a circuitous route.

The army had hoped the successor to Chieftain would come in the form of a completely new tank developed in conjunction with West Germany, but in the event the two countries could not establish enough common ground in their requirements.

While Britain and Germany were still exploring the possibility of collaboration, the Shah of Iran agreed on a contract to buy 1,300 tanks developed from the Chieftain. This contract collapsed in 1979 when the Shah's regime was overthrown, but the tanks which had been destined for Iran provided the basis from which Challenger has emerged.

It is often referred to as an "interim" successor to Chieftain, and already studies have begun on a possible new tank for the later 1990s. The indications are that this would probably emerge as a substantially lighter vehicle than Challenger, and there will almost certainly be renewed efforts to find a basis for cooperation with other countries.

Even if only an "interim" tank, Challenger incorporates several improvements on Chieftain. It is the first British tank to



The MCV-80: the vehicle that will keep the troops up with the tanks

carry the British-developed Chobham armour protection, which is considered the most advanced in the world, and which is also being used by the Americans and Germans.

It is faster than Chieftain both on roads, and, above all, across country. It is said that Challenger can reverse faster across country than Chieftain can go forward. This should not be dismissed as an entirely eccentric capability, for the ability to manoeuvre backwards at speed is important as tanks seek to make rapid changes in their firing positions.

The hydrogas suspension on which much of its cross-country speed depends is remarkable for

the smoothness of the ride, even in rutted, scarred terrain.

One of the drawbacks of Challenger is that it is at least 50 per cent heavier on fuel than Chieftain. Though Challenger has only this summer entered service with the British Army of the Rhine, already a programme of improvements for both it and Chieftain is in train.

Among those planned are the fitting of a new high-pressure gun and fire-control systems, modifications to Challenger's gear-box, and the introduction of a new thermal observation and gunnery sight. It is also hoped that developments in the design of tank tracks will lead to a doubling of their life to well over 2,000 kilometres.

With modern tanks able to travel at 35 miles an hour or faster, it is important that infantry should be able to keep pace in vehicles which provide a high degree of armoured protection. The vehicle which the British army will be expecting to provide cross-country support for the tanks is the mechanized combat vehicle, MCV-80, which is being produced by GKN Sankey.

This 24-tonne vehicle, which is capable of 45 mph, will enter service later this decade. Protected by lightweight aluminium-alloy armour, it will carry 10 infantrymen and their equipment into battle.

RC

## Why the girls queue four-deep to join up

for recruiting, with a massive surge in the total number of recruits from about 13,000 in 1982/83 to more than 22,000 in 1983/84.

This surge was very much the result of an easing of the severe restraints of previous years, largely in recognition of the extra demands made on the army through the commitment to garrisoning the Falkland Islands.

Though the Army shows some satisfaction at being able to meet its overall recruitment targets, surges such as last year's are in principle undesirable. The Army projects its manpower requirements 10 years ahead, and these are then subject to modification in the light of political, economic and other developments.

Large short-term variations in either the rate of recruiting or in the numbers of people leaving

the service not only make it more difficult to ensure a properly balanced army with the right mix of skills, but make it very difficult to pitch the provision of training resources at the most efficient level.

Short term variations can cast a long shadow. For example, in the late 1970's, when service pay fell behind civilian levels, the services were neither able to recruit sufficient people nor to retain enough of those they had. Those years are now referred to as "the black hole", and because of the rate at which very young officers were then leaving the Army, it is to this day short by about 15 per cent of the required number of people at the rank of captain.

The number of people leaving the service early is again increasing. On 1983/83 about 1,500 soldiers sought "premature voluntary release", or FVR

as it is known, and in the current financial year it looks as though this number may rise to approaching 3,000. The number of officers seeking FVR is also rising, but more slowly, from under 450 in 1982/83 towards 600 this year.

These numbers must, however, be seen in perspective. They compare with more than 5,700 non-commissioned ranks and 830 officers who sought premature release in the black-hole year of 1978/79.

One of the buoyant areas of army recruiting at present lies in the number of girls wanting to join. One officer said: "There are very high-grade girls queuing four deep to join."

This could be important because though women account for only about 6,400 of the total strength of the army, there are important voices which say that more use should be made of women in tasks away from the front line, in order to release more men for service in and close to the combat formations. It seems likely, therefore, that there may be some modest increase in the number of women in the Army in the next year or two.

RC

In war, in peace you need his help



When help is needed, please help him and his dependants

A donation, a covenant, a legacy to THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND will help soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in distress

As the Army's principal charity, the Army Benevolent Fund works in close co-operation with Corps and Regimental Associations, through whom help given to individuals is normally channelled. In 1983/84 the Fund disbursed over £2.4 million in all forms of relief work.

41 QUEENS GATE, LONDON SW7 5HR

Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' Gifford, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man I have ever known.

But now, after serving in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant Gifford cannot bear to turn a corner for fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We lost after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

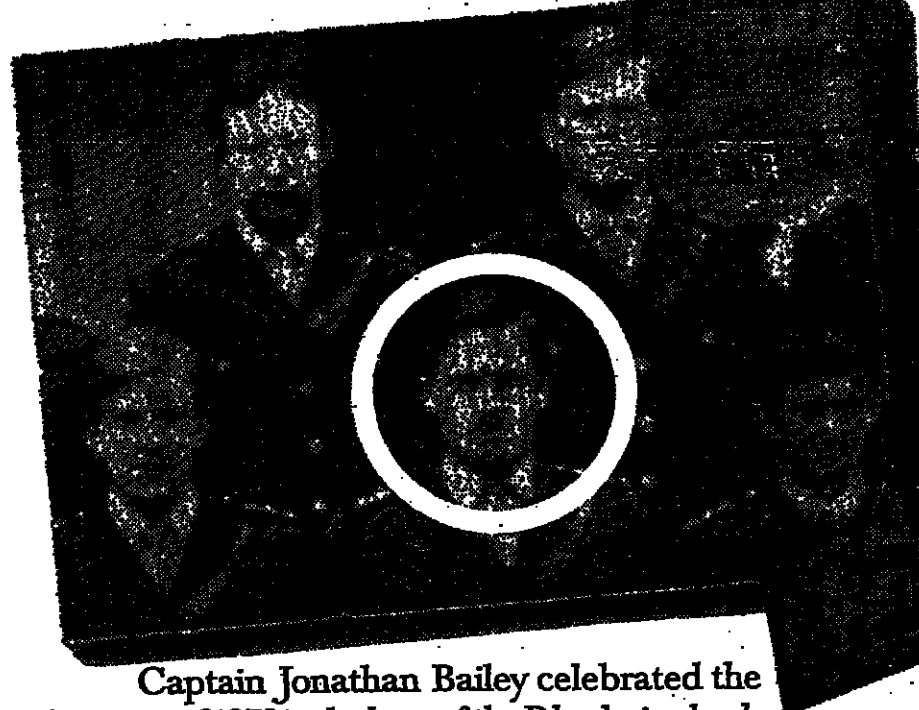
"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

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# "They told me I had 48 hours to live."



Captain Jonathan Bailey celebrated the Christmas of 1979 in the heat of the Rhodesian bush. He was in command of a Ceasefire Assembly Place, 300 miles from Salisbury and 5,000 miles from home.

His orders were brief and to the point. To muster guerrillas from the bush and persuade them to remain at the Assembly Place until the Zimbabwe elections could take place in March, 1980.

Understandably, the guerrillas were highly suspicious and Bailey's first task was to gain their confidence.

Overt displays of force and weaponry were out of the question.

"The local Police, who acted as our guides, viewed us with total disbelief," he recalls.

"They had seen civil war raging in the bush for the previous eight years.

Now they were confronted by a British Army Officer and 11 men who were to enforce a ceasefire, armed only with rifles and good will.

They left with the comforting prediction that we'd probably be dead inside 48 hours."

The next day a note arrived (reprinted right) inviting Bailey to meet the guerrillas further out in the bush.

He weighed up the pros and cons and politely declined.

"I thought they were sparring with us," he says. "When we stood our ground, they had to come to us."

Five hours later the first group arrived, followed by another and another. At the end of the first week, Bailey and his men had charge of 800 guerrillas.

Then the logistical problems began.

To provide fresh water for 800 in the back of beyond, Bailey requested assistance from the Royal Engineers.

Two five thousand gallon water tanks were constructed, together with a pipeline that stretched two kilometres to the local Umfuli river.

A detachment from the Royal Army Medical Corps was also flown in. And a regular air drop of food and medicines by RAF Hercules was organised.

"On top of all this, we had to concentrate on building a relationship of trust with the guerrillas," records Bailey.

"We organised as many activities as we could think of—football, volleyball, fitness training.

I even gave a lecture on the Reformation of the Church. They seemed very interested in religion."

Even so, the ensuing months were not without their tension.

The guerrillas retained possession of their weapons throughout and guns were occasionally fired by accident.

Typically, this caused them all to prime their weapons, often firing in the air.

In March, the elections took place successfully. But Bailey is quick to deflect any praise that comes his way.

"We were sitting ducks from the word go. The fact that we survived is due entirely to the peaceful intentions of the guerrillas.

Their leader set the seal on events when he visited the Assembly Place. He told his men to vote as they pleased and to accept the outcome, whatever it might be."

**A career in the Gunners.**

Jonathan Bailey applied to join the Royal Artillery after spending three years at Sussex University. (He gained an upper second in medieval history.) He had decided not to

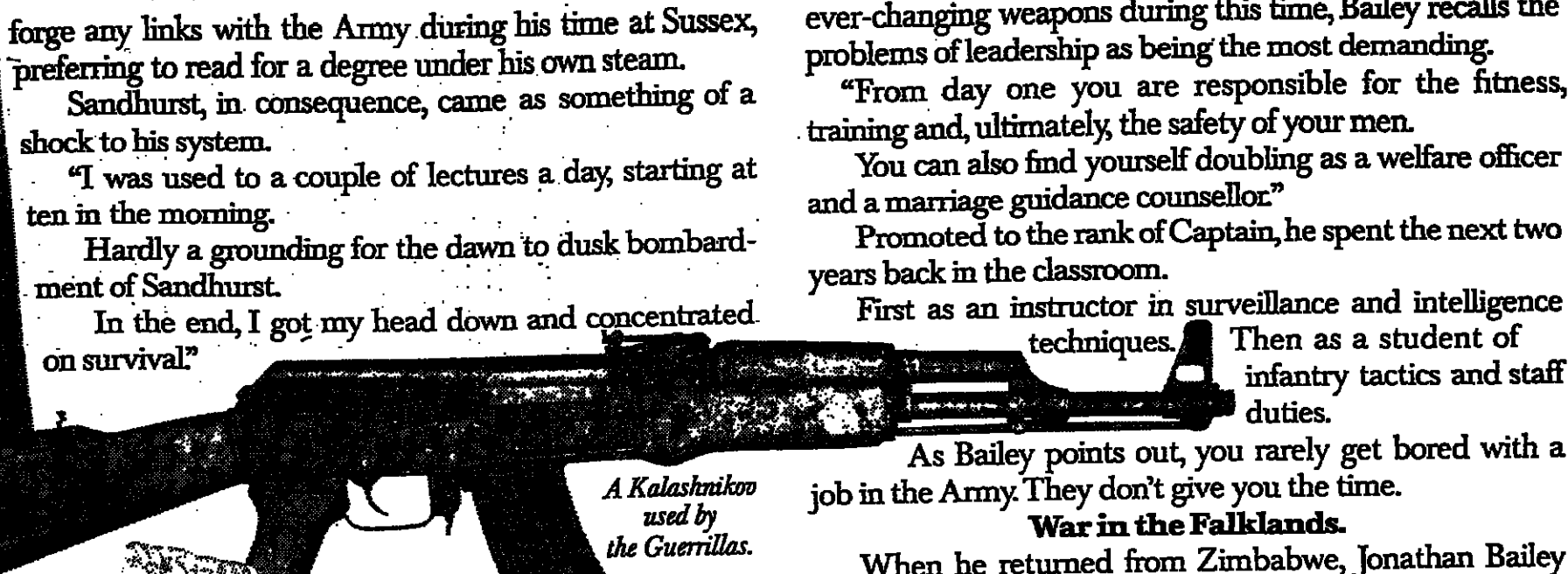
forge any links with the Army during his time at Sussex, preferring to read for a degree under his own steam.

Sandhurst, in consequence, came as something of a shock to his system.

"I was used to a couple of lectures a day, starting at ten in the morning.

Hardly a grounding for the dawn to dusk bombardment of Sandhurst.

In the end, I got my head down and concentrated on survival."



A Kalashnikov used by the Guerrillas.



The Note.

The self-propelled MT10 gun, deployed in Germany.

Survive he did, passing out as an Officer in 1973. He chose to join the Royal Artillery, primarily because of the variety of activities offered by that Regiment.

In his first four years he was a Command Post Officer, a Gun Position Officer and a Troop Commander.

He spent time in Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Germany.

Despite the need to get to grips with advanced and

ever-changing weapons during this time, Bailey recalls the problems of leadership as being the most demanding.

"From day one you are responsible for the fitness, training and, ultimately, the safety of your men.

You can also find yourself doubling as a welfare officer and a marriage guidance counsellor."

Promoted to the rank of Captain, he spent the next two years back in the classroom.

First as an instructor in surveillance and intelligence techniques. Then as a student of infantry tactics and staff duties.

As Bailey points out, you rarely get bored with a job in the Army. They don't give you the time.

**War in the Falklands.**

When he returned from Zimbabwe, Jonathan Bailey took up the post of Adjutant in 4 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

In April 1982, he was deployed with the Regiment to the South Atlantic, with the rank of Major.

Given 18 hours notice, he took command of the troops on the Baltic Ferry, being responsible during the voyage for morale, discipline and battle readiness.

On arrival in the Falklands, he was to co-ordinate the fire support cell for 5 Infantry Brigade.

In plain English, to organise the shelling of Argentine positions prior to precisely timed infantry advances.

The problem for Bailey was that the shelling involved not just the Royal Artillery, but also the Royal Navy and RAF Harriers.

"We had to sit down and thrash out a co-ordinated fire plan under extremely difficult circumstances.

The movement of ships and the availability of Harriers and supply helicopters all had to be taken into account.

Then there was the weather..."

Of course, the Royal Artillery had their own problems, too. "Years of training stand you in good stead for operations like the Falklands. But even so, the sheer scale of the action caused us a few headaches.

In the last twelve hours of the battle for Port Stanley, five batteries fired the equivalent of one regiment's training ammunition for four years.

After firing three hundred rounds, it took a detachment three hours just to move the empty salvage back thirty metres behind their gun."

Looking back, Major Bailey regards his early years in the Royal Artillery, when everything was new, as the most demanding of his career.

But he recalls Zimbabwe and the Falklands as the most rewarding chapters to date.

"What appeals to me about the Army is that the unexpected always seems to happen, just when you think life is becoming routine.

Any Officer can suddenly find himself on active service with the chance to influence events, to stamp his mark. What other career could offer as much?"

If you would like to know more about life as an Army Officer, write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. T14 Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. Tell him your date of birth, your school, university, polytechnic or college of higher education and the qualifications you already have or are expecting.

**Army Officer**

Four years' commission in twelve hours.



# THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
1	MINING	
2	Metals Exploration	
3	Can Boyd	
4	Overseas Tin	
5	Loraine	
6	Gooping	
7	B. Dargatzis	
8	Hannover Arms	
9	Avon Ham	
10	Leslie	
11	Ketton	
12	BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
13	Midland	
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Please make a note of your daily totals for the week's dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's Newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

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High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## SHORTS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## MEDIUMS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## LONGS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## BREWERS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## ELECTRICALS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FINANCE AND LAND

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## FOODS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## LEISURE

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## MINING

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

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High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

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## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

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## INSURANCE

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Shares strong

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 3. Dealings End, Sept 14. Contango Day, Sep 17. Settlement Day, Sep 24.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High Low Company Price Chg % P/E				1984 High Low Company Price Chg % P/E				1984 High Low Company Price Chg % P/E				1984 High Low Company Price Chg % P/E			
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98	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	98	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
99	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	99	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
100	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	100	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
101	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	101	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
102	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	102	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
103	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	103	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
104	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	104	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
105	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	105	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
106	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	106	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
107	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	107	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
108	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	108	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
109	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	109	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
110	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	110	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
111	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0	111	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	0.00	0.0	1.0
112	100.00	99.00													



THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Treasury bills to cut the cost of mortgages

The Treasury is laughing. At least £500m has been channelled into the 28th issue of National Savings certificates since they were launched on their irresistible way on August 8. The mandarins, however, may soon be laughing on the other side of their faces. Paying an inflated rate of interest, at the taxpayers' expense, may be an absurdly simple way of financing the public sector deficit, but the pressure is now putting on building societies is beginning to look unhealthy. Against such ruthless State competition for savings they have no choice but to offer high rates. The other side of that equation is high mortgage rates, which in turn are reflected in the published rate of inflation.

The latest response of the building societies is noted later. Both they, the Treasury and the Bank of England cannot fail to be interested in an intelligent and persuasive solution to the savings dilemma offered by Mr Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew, the newly crowned king of the gilt-edged analysts. He suggests that the authorities might spread the burden of funding by tapping more actively the cash of companies.

The bulk of companies' liquid funds still finds its way into bank deposits "probably because the public sector securities available to them do not suit their investment requirements."

Mr Lewis believes that the Government might attract a larger proportion of company money "if the range of public sector securities available to companies were broadened." The most obvious gap in the range is six-month and 12-month central government paper, ie, the kind of Treasury bills found in the United States and major Continental European countries.

For a variety of reasons the Government has been reluctant to open-up the market in short term paper. The three-month Treasury bill issue itself has withered away from £600m a week in 1976 to £100m a week now.

One of the consequences of the shrinkage of this market is the Bank of England's increasing reliance on buying commercial bills to relieve shortages of credit in the money market. Mr Lewis estimates that the Bank's holdings of commercial bills have risen by £7 billion over the past four years. "Not only does this represent the effective 'nationalization' of a significant slice of private sector debt, it also provides a stimulus to the development of the commercial bill market and distortions in the pattern and, from time to time, in the extent of overall monetary sector lending to the industrial and commercial company sector. These adverse consequences might be avoided if the Government were to issue six-month and 12-month Treasury bills on a large scale."

## Seeking a 'truth in saving' standard

Meanwhile, leaping among the building society giants continues as each tries to obtain a competitive edge in the hunt for savings. The latest to announce an increase is the Woolwich, which has put 0.55 per cent on its seven-day, 90-day and monthly income accounts, claiming that its investment rates are now better than those announced earlier by Abbey National.

The next few days should produce a response from the Halifax, Nationwide and second division Cheltenham & Gloucester, which is sitting on the sidelines waiting to see where the fig five will settle before announcing new rates on the Cheltenham Gold Account.

Building society rates now have little

relationship with money market rates and societies, worried at their ever-narrowing margins, are asking where it will all end. The upward trend in rates will have to slow down at some stage - presumably when mortgage rates are pushed up to a level where homebuyers are no longer prepared to borrow. That could be a long way off and in the meantime borrowers are paying more than is necessary.

A more disturbing trend is occupying the mind of Mr Michael Bridgman, the registrar of friendly societies. When Leeds Permanent and Abbey National announced their latest increases, the rises appeared to be larger than they actually were, because both moved from quoting the annual rate of interest to a compounded annual rate.

It has long been argued that there should be a "truth in saving" policy in line with the "truth in lending" initiative which culminated in the Consumer Credit Act requirement that all lenders should quote a borrowing rate calculated according to an agreed formula - the annual percentage rate (APR). Building Society investors may now be confused by the different rates quoted by societies which are basically offering the same return. The registrar, concerned to stop the rot, is working hard on a directive to be issued very soon which will oblige societies to quote an investment APR.

## Gnomic remarks from Matthews

The disappearance of Dr Ashraf Marwan has brought a brief outbreak of silence - not unwelcome you may think - over the manoeuvrings round Fleet Holdings as the poker players study their hands. Lord Matthews, however, could hardly avoid some comment to his other shareholders in the company's annual report. With a turn of phrase worthy of Lord Gnome, he seeks to refute rumours that Fleet will be pushed into making a big takeover for shares to make itself more expensive and dilute Mr Robert Maxwell's shareholding, now nearly 16 per cent.

"Such comment will not force us into making acquisitions that are not in the best interests of shareholders and employees," he says emphatically. "Nevertheless," he continues without pause, "the group does have the ability to grow by acquisitions into areas outside of newspapers and magazines where careful evaluation of all the relevant factors shows that it is commercially desirable. This will continue to be a prime objective for the future." Quite so.

One area unlikely to receive his attention is cable television, ruled out by Fleet as offering "no prospects of achieving a satisfactory return in the foreseeable future." Likewise Fleet's investment in TV-am is hardly likely to encourage it to pile the £70m odd of cash and Reuters shares available in 1986 into the small screen. Films offer more possibilities.

So long as Lord Matthews, now 64, wants to keep Fleet independent of Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland or someone else approved by the *Mirror's* proprietor, his best defence is to maintain Fleet's sparkling 1983-84 profits performance. Lord Matthews is about to start a new share option scheme to provide more incentives. They may be needed. With newsprint costs rising again, national newspapers will require "stringent control of costs" to make more headway. Connoisseurs of Fleet Street costs will note that, apart from directors, more than 100 Fleet employees are paid above £30,000 a year and 76 more than £35,000.

# £43m Lloyd's underwriting loss is first for 14 years

By Richard Thomson

Lloyd's of London, the international insurance market, has announced its first underwriting loss for 14 years. The £43.5m loss for 1983, on premium income of £2.3 billion, means that some Lloyd's names will have to put up cash to meet claims.

However, the underwriting losses are broadly spread across the market and, according to the Association of Lloyd's Members, very few individual names or syndicates have been badly hit.

Despite the loss, Lloyd's reported an overall market profit for the year of £154m, due to investment income. The results will mean a reduced return on investment for Lloyd's names. The 1981 profit is £2.4m, the 1982 profit £2.6m, and the previous year's profit of £264m, producing a return of about 6

per cent against 7 per cent in 1980.

However, the number of Lloyd's members has increased steadily, more than doubling from 11,000 to 23,000 since 1976. Its underwriting capacity has grown over the same period from £1.9bn to £5bn.

Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, gave a warning that the position could worsen. The insurance industry had been through a trough in 1982 and 1983 and this would be reflected in Lloyd's results for those years, which were likely to be worse than the 1981 results.

On marine underwriting business, Mr Derek Pollock, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriting Association, reported a profit of £104m - marginally down on the previous year. On present market conditions, he said, there was evidence of an improvement in the rates



Peter Miller: warning that position could worsen.

charged on hull business, but fierce competition was still keeping marine rates low.

In other areas, the accident and health account produced a fall in profits of nearly £10m from £24.6m in 1980 to £15m in 1981. But motor insurance showed an increase in profits

from £36m to over £40m in 1981.

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Lloyd's Motor Underwriters' Association, said that since then the profitable cycle of the last 10 years was ending and motor rates were now too low.

He forecast that rates would rise by 7.5 to 10 per cent this year.

The aviation account turned around from a loss of £9m in 1980 to a profit of £7m in 1981 as a result of higher investment income. The property damage account increased by £43m from £69m to £112m.

Mr Miller pointed out that Lloyd's overall underwriting loss should be seen in the context of bad results reported worldwide by insurance companies. Despite the loss, Lloyd's was in a strong position, he said, its underlying financial situation was extremely healthy and it was still able to attract new investment.

## Booker hits forecast

Booker McConnell, the agricultural, health and food group, has reported pre-tax profits of £11.1m for the half-year to June 30 up from £5.6m. A bid for the group by the Dee Corporation is being considered by the Monopolies Commission. The figures reinforce the forecasts made by Booker at the time of the bid. The interim dividend is raised from 1.65p to 2.75p putting it on course to meet the promised 7p payout for the year.

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## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1085.3 up 12.7 (high: 1095.3; low: 1085.0)  
FT Index: 848.9 up 9.0  
FT All Share: 516.67 up 4.33  
Bargains: 16,358  
Dates: 10,458  
Hangers: 10,458  
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1,214.88 up 5.85  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,458.99 down 87.06  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 935.93 down 10.94  
Amsterdam: 165 down 0.2  
Sydney: AO Index 721.0 down 0.9  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 994.2 down 6.6

## CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.2860 up 45pts  
Index 77.6 down 0.1  
DM 3.7925 up 0.0075  
FF 11.63 up 0.0275  
Yen 313.75 up 0.45  
Dollar Index 138.7 up 0.1  
DM 2.9475 down 0.0075  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.2860  
Dollar DM 2.9460

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 10%  
Finance houses base rate 11%  
Discount market loans week fixed 10  
3 month interbank 11-10%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 12 1/2-11 1/2  
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 1/4  
3 month FF 12 1/2-11 1/2  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 13.00  
Fed funds 11%  
Treasury long bond 19%  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4, 1984, inclusive: 10.606 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$340.30 pm \$340.50  
close \$340.50 - 341 (2265 - 265.50)  
New York (last): \$341.50  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$350.75 - 352.25 (2273 - 274)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$80.25 - 81.25 (262.50 - 63.25)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Garfunkels pays £5.8m for Strikes restaurants

By Jonathan Clare

History turned full circle for the Strikes Restaurants hamburger chain yesterday when Garfunkels Restaurants revealed itself as the unexpected bidder which has been wooing the group.

The 22-strong Strikes chain was established between 1968 and 1978 by Mr Phillip Kaye who now runs Garfunkels with his brother, Mr Reggie Kaye. Mr Phillip Kaye said: "I set up - I certainly know where the light switches are."

Garfunkels and Strikes almost came together two years ago when both were planning a flotation on the Unlisted Securities Market. A joint flotation of the merged company was considered but, Mr Kaye said, it was decided that Strikes, part of Comfort Hotels International, was too big. The two came to the USA to start a new company. The acquisition of the 22 Strikes restaurants will take the Garfunkels chain to 50. A large proportion of the restaurants will be turned into Garfunkels' new Deep Pan Pizza format. The Strikes name will be phased out over two years.

Comfort, which until yesterday owned 86.7 per cent of the shares, is keeping the rights to the Strikes name which it has also franchised. Mr Kaye said he believed the Strikes concept had been right for the 1970s but was now jaded after peaking in 1983.

Garfunkels is paying the equivalent of £5.8m in shares for the restaurants. But Comfort will buy back the three Heroes restaurants, an Oxford Street restaurant, rights to the names Heroes and Strikes and the Strikes shareholding in Croissant de Provence for a total of £860,000. Comfort will also pay back a £1.1m loan made to it by Strikes.

Mr Kaye said that he still saw a big future for restaurants in London offering alternative meals to fast food outlets at about £5 a head. However, he also wants to expand Garfunkels in the suburbs.

"At the moment we have 47 restaurants in the West End. He is also considering introducing the British palate to a chain of American rib houses selling barbecued pork spare ribs.

## SE defends move to dual capacity

By Jeremy Warner

The Stock Exchange yesterday hit back at a scathing attack launched a week ago by Mr David Hopkinson, chairman of M & G Investment Management, on the revolutionary changes being planned for the market.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the exchange, said that the proposed new dealing system would mean more protection for investors and that the exchange would bring in rules and codes to deal with conflicts of interest when dual capacity is introduced.

Mr Hopkinson had criticized "the dangers" of being rushed by the Government, the Bank of England and large institutions into making changes which, he said, would increase the risk of fraud or bankruptcy in the market and reduce the level of protection enjoyed by investors.

Sir Nicholas told Mr Hopkinson in a letter which he has chosen to make public, that the exchange had been given insufficient credit for having reached a firm and detailed decision on a new dealing system with its supporting technology which would afford "a very high level of protection for investors."

At the same time, Sir Nicholas has issued a warning to other parts of the City on the

dangers of not setting their own houses in order by devising adequate forms of voluntary self-regulation.

The failure of people outside the Stock Exchange to submit to an acceptable degree of voluntary regulation would inevitably lead to "the hurried imposition of wholly statutory regulation," he said. Sir Nicholas was referring particularly to the commodity and Eurobond markets where there have been several instances of alleged irregularities.

Coincidentally, Sir Nicholas announced yesterday that the Stock Exchange is strengthening its own regulatory framework by setting up a surveillance department for monitoring and enforcing its rules.

The new department will be headed by Mr Robert Wilkinson, the Stock Exchange's inspector, and will bring together under a single executive management the work of the firms' accounts department, the Stock Exchange accountants, the inspectorate, the investigation department, the share dealing inquiries, the quotations department, and non-members complaints.

A new joint venture called Tullet & Tokyo Securities is to apply for a licence to operate as a dealer-broker in the new gilt-edged market.

## Chubb forecasts record profits

By Our City Staff

Chubb, the lock and safe manufacturer, yesterday forecast record profits for the year to the end of next March means that the group is predicting a result of at least £15.25m, a record established in 1979.

The interim and the final dividend for this year are to be increased by at least 30 per cent, and the improvement in the order book, which was up 23 per cent in the first quarter of the year, is being maintained.

Chubb says that its name is the most valuable in the securities business and that the bid has been launched because "it would appear that Raca is running out of steam and desperately needs a good acquisition."

Raca's technology has only limited application to Chubb. Chubb has received several approaches from other companies since Raca made its bid

## Profits record after 'best discovery since Magnus'

# Big North Sea find for BP

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

British Petroleum pleased the stock market yesterday by announcing record second quarter profits and confirming that it has made an important find in the North Sea.

Mr Roger Bexon, BP's deputy chairman, said that the find in block 16/7b - in the Brae complex of fields - was a "substantial" accumulation of oil. "It is by far our best discovery from the North Sea since the Magnus field," he said.

The find completes what has been the best year for exploration which BP has had in the North Sea for a decade, and makes up, in part, BP executives say, for their recent drilling disappointment in China and Alaska.

BP shares rose 20p to 493p after the publication of the figures, showing profits on the group's favoured replacement cost basis of £306m. That was slightly down on the first



Roger Bexon: making up for disappointments.

quarter's £324m, but up on last year's second quarter result of £283m.

Higher North Sea production and a £33m greater contribution from Sobio, BP's US subsidiary, helped to offset a downturn in BP's refining and marketing operations, particularly in Europe. Profits in oil trading and shipping were

£90m down on the same period last year.

BP is increasing its half-time dividend from 7p to 10p, which it says reflects not only the improved half-time performance but also the desire to obtain a better balance between interim and final payments.

Mr Bexon admitted that BP's failure to find any oil with its first five wells off China was a disappointment.

Having failed to find oil in the large geological structures it had identified as prime targets, BP will now enter a "second phase" of drilling deeper wells for potentially smaller discoveries. "I would expect to be exploring in China for many years yet," he said.

Whereas two years ago China and Alaska were BP's main hopes for finding significant new oil reserves, Mr Bexon said that the North Sea was once again back at the top of its list. Gas would also be an important source of hydrocarbons for BP.

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Six months' results (unaudited)	1984	1983	Full year 1983
Revenue	£126.3m	£112.1m	£207.0m
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	£52.9m	£51.1	£80.1m
Earnings for the period	£30.0m	£24.9m	£40.1m
Earnings per ordinary share	13.8p	11.4p	18.5p
Dividend per ordinary share	3.0p	2.75p	8.0p

Sedgwick Group



A commanding presence in worldwide insurance and reinsurance broking



**By Derek Pain**

**Roundtree Mackintosh**, the sweets group, was again in demand. Despite occasional flurries of profit-taking, it surged 12p to 340p, a closing

**Shares of William Sommerville, unchanged at 170p yesterday as group headed by a New Zealand shareholding to 20 per cent. IE h Best known is its near 16 per cent and Millbourn, the international**

a Midlothian paper maker, were Industrial Equity, the Australian trader, Mr Ron Brierley, lifted its stakes in 30 British companies. In shareholding in Tozer Kemsley trader.

Some of the high street store names were in demand. Burton Group rose 9p to 277p and J Hepworth was 8p higher at 296p. NSS, the newsagents, gained 6p to 120p.

On sales up from £43.1m to £53.4m, pretax profits rose from £2m to £4.2m. The rise in profits had been anticipated in the stock market and the company's share price lost 5p to 560p.

Although operating profit was slightly down on the previous three months, this must be seen in the context of a hefty £61m exploration expenditure write-off.

The group's strategy dictates that it will concentrate more on the successful agriculture division and health products. Both are seen as growth sectors unlike the food distribution division which is distinctly mature.

On the merchanting side, Bunzl, now one of the world's largest pulp traders, has recently put together a deal with Great Paper, of Philadelphia.

With two growth areas under its belt, and a secure US niche, the temptation for Bunzl to shift into paper making must be strong. The group is adamant that any move into the capital intensive part of the

**By Our City Staff**

**Cookson Group** - the old

## Half-time profit

William Collins, the Glasgow publisher, yesterday reported more than doubled profits for the first half of this year.

On sales up from £43.1m to £53.4m, pretax profits rose from £2m to £4.2m. The rise in profits had been anticipated in the stock market and the company's share price lost 5p to 560p.

The board is raising the interim dividend from 3.5p to 4p on the "A" ordinary shares.

# TEMPUS

RR found itself yesterday in the

Although operating profit was slightly down on the previous three months, this must be seen in the context of a hefty £61m exploration expenditure write-off.

enough in reserve to smooth

The group's strategy dictates that it will concentrate more on the successful agriculture division and health products. Both are seen as growth sectors unlike the food distribution division which is distinctly mature.

could justifiably fight off most bids, and its planned expansion

With two growth areas under its belt, and a secure US niche, the temptation for Bunzl to shift into paper making must be strong. The group is adamant that any move into the capital intensive part of the

55.2	48.9	European	54.6	50.2	1.77
55.3	48.7	De Acctm	54.7	51.1	1.77
60.0	47.5	T.E. Equity	62.5	60.0	1.47

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# Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

## German firm courts Jaguar for conversions

A new Jaguar will drive through the gates of the company's Coventry headquarters on Monday. To the casual observer it will be just another XJ6 returning from a road test before delivery.

But closer scrutiny will reveal a significant difference, and one that has far-reaching implications for the newly privatised arm of B.L. It is longer by 8in and much more luxuriously equipped than the standard XJ6 on which it is based.

The conversion has been carried out by one of the best-known names in European coach-building, Karosserie Wender, of Reutlingen, near Stuttgart.

The fact that Wender, which converts about 1,000 cars a year and fits armour-plate to another 200, is seeking Jaguar approval for a stretched XJ6 as an alternative to the Mercedes is a sign of the times, as seen as a feather in the British car's cap.

But Wender has a tough task. Over the years many have tried to win factory approval for stretching Jaguars, without success. In the process, the Coventry firm has acquired a reputation for conservatism which is not entirely justified. The truth is that, up to now, it has not had engineering staff to spare for vetting outside projects.

There is another consideration, however. If there is money to be made in bigger and better Jaguars, why does not the factory do it itself? The Wender conversion adds another £12,500 plus VAT to the XJ6's £19,000 price tag. An even plusher version which will increase the basic price by £16,500 is already planned.

Why have the Germans moved now, less than 18 months before the new XJ40 replaces the long-running XJ6?

The answer, according to Mr Stephen Hanlon, former Lotus and B.L. sales executive, who heads Wender's Coventry British company, is simple: "We want to get our product established now so that it will give us a considerable lead on the competition when XJ40 arrives."

All this is music to the ears of motoring journalists like myself,

### Porsche newcomer

To many Porsche lovers, the rear-engined 911 is the outstanding sports car of this decade. Any attempt to reshape its familiar rear-drive lines runs the risk of offending a lot of people.

But that is what the Stuttgart company is planning to do, and British Porsche enthusiasts will be able to pass judgment on the likely shape of the next generation 911 when the Porsche Group B prototype appears on stand 308 at the 1984 International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre from October 20.

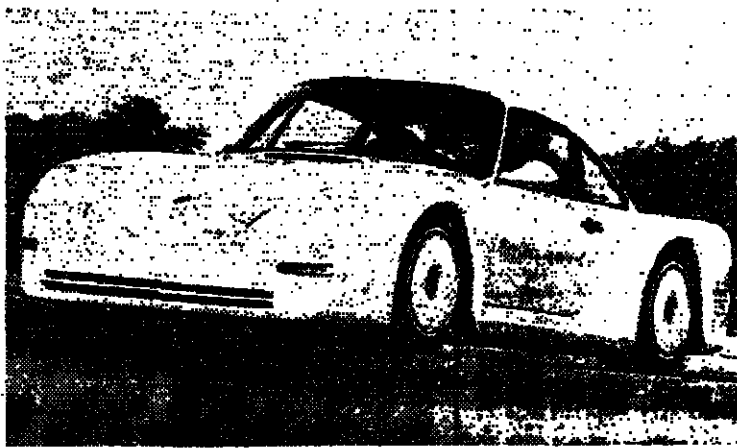
Obviously it was conceived to provide a cheaper alternative to the all-conquering 956 racer. It is suggested the B could be sold for around £100,000 compared with up to £200,000 for the 956. As the name suggests, the newcomer will be aimed at Group B races, instead of the more specialized Group C.

That, however, requires Porsche to build and offer for sale at least 200 identical cars. The word from Stuttgart is that production starts next summer. Unfortunately, for aspiring British owners, there are no plans to produce right-hand drive versions.

Although the new shape will attract most comment, there are even more exciting developments under the skin, including an entirely new engine, and a four-wheel drive layout.

According to Porsche's backroom team, it has developed an electronic system which has taken 20 months to develop, and which is entirely suitable for everyday use.

The new engine is a twin turbo-charged 2.8 litre flat six, with in-



Porsche 911 prototype: Exciting developments

intercooler. It is claimed to produce 400 bhp and accelerate from 0-62 mph in under five seconds, with a top speed of 186 mph.

### Renault's executive

Crossing the line between popular-priced cars and upmarket executive saloons offering the comfort, quality and reliability demanded by more discerning buyers is a dangerous move for any car maker.

Ford burnt its fingers with lumbering uglies like the Zephyr and Zodiac before it hit the jackpot with the importation of its German factories to get acceptable quality.

General Motors made similar mistakes with the Vauxhall Cresta before it settled for importing German Opel Sedans.

Austin Rover is still trying to reach the high standards it has set for the Rover 3500 range since it moved from Rover's traditional home at Solihull to the former Morris plant at Cowley.

Now France's state-owned motor group Renault is making a second attempt to cross the same divide. It failed miserably with the unattractive, slab-sided Renault 30, but looks set for better times with the sleek-looking new Renault 25.

In my view, it is the best looking Renault by a mile. That in itself is not such a big feat because Renaults have never been the most attractive cars around. But this newcomer looks good alongside any of its rivals.

The V6 injection model I drove for a week recently was the automatic version. I have never been particularly impressed by the Douvrin V6 alloy 2.5 litre engine inherited from the Renault 30 and shared with some Volvo and Peugeot models. It tends to get thrashy when pushed hard, and seems to lack the refinement we now expect from the power units of £10,000-plus cars. And it is thirsty.

The best that can be said is that in the new car it performs efficiently and makes a nice match with the automatic. But the 25's ride and handling will win many supporters. It offers typically French long travel with soft suspension. Unlike many

of its predecessors however, it does not take up excessive roll angles on bends, or give a feeling of sloppy handling.

Past experience with softly sprung big cars suggests cautious handling while you explore their limits. It takes only a few miles to discover that this Renault can be flung round like a car half its size and weight. Renault have gone to great lengths to make it one of the most aerodynamically efficient saloons in the world. The smaller two-litre version's drag coefficient of 0.28 is claimed to be a record for any production car, and the V6 is not far behind.

The result shows in much improved performance over the old 30, despite having the same engine. It is more than 1½ seconds quicker to 60 mph, and at its maximum speed of 123 mph about 10 mph faster.

Interior refinement is good in a class where drivers give that aspect the highest priority. The seats are

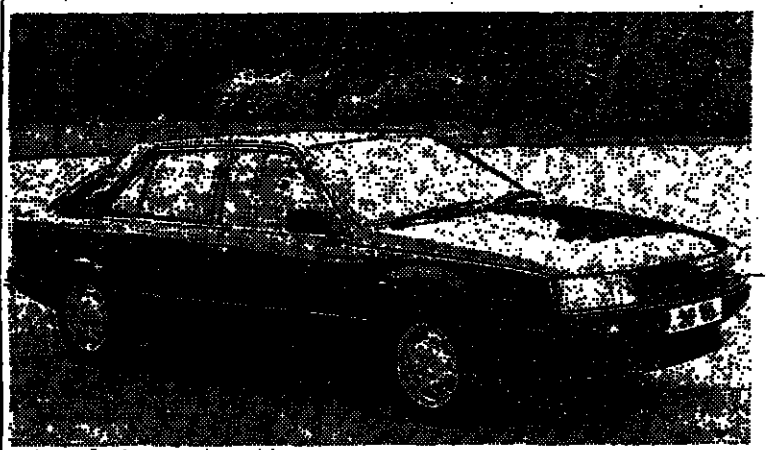
### Vital Statistics

Model: Renault 25 V6 injection.  
Price: £13,440.  
Engine: 2664 cc, V6 alloy.  
Perf: 0-62 mph, 11.3 sec; max speed, 123 mph.  
Official consumption: urban, 19.5 mpg; 56 mpg; 34.4 mpg; 75 mpg, 28.8 mpg.  
Length: 15.2 ft.  
Insurance: group 6.

attractively upholstered and offer an acceptable compromise between softness and the need for firm support when cornering.

The occupants are well insulated from road and engine noise, although the quietness of the test car was spoiled by a squeaking scuttle and an electric sun roof which rattled intermittently when open.

The V6 is fitted with a magnificent stereo radio-cassette player with no less than six speakers and sufficient controls to please a demanding electronic buff. It costs £515 if you want it as an optional extra on one of the cheaper versions.



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White September: The scene in Chur, Switzerland, yesterday as heavy snow turned summer abruptly into winter across Central Europe.

## New Sir Galahad to be built on Tyneside

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The replacement for the landing ship Sir Galahad, bombed during the Falklands war and now a war grave, is to be built at British Shipbuilders Swan Hunter yard at Wallsend on Tyneside at a cost of £40m.

The order was announced yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, during a visit to the yard. The keel of the new vessel is to be laid in the middle of next year, with completion set for early 1987.

It is designed to provide logistic support for amphibious operations and will be bigger than the Sir Galahad, which was bombed by Argentine aircraft at Bluff Cove on June 8, 1982 with the loss of 51 lives. The new ship will have an extra helicopter deck, a speed of 18 knots and will be able to carry a crew of 51 and 339 troops.

Swan Hunter, which won the contract in the face of fierce competition from state-owned Harland and Wolff in Belfast, is high on the list for sale under the government's privatization plans for BS. The new order, which will provide jobs for 700

of the yard's 7,600 workers, is bound to make the company more attractive.

Like the other BS composite yard - Cammell-Laird at Birkenhead, which was also interested in the contract - Swan Hunter is part of Britain's profitable shipbuilding industry, all of which is to be sold to the private sector. Swan's turnover last year was £54.9m and its trading profit was £3.4m, with warships accounting for more than half its sales.

BS said last night: "This is news that the Tyne has been awaiting for weeks and marks the launch of a worldwide initiative by Swans to win more orders of this type." Swan's managing director, Mr Alex Marsh, said: "We have put a considerable amount of effort into ensuring that the new design for Sir Galahad is the most cost effective."

Swan Hunter is also building the £40m replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor, the container ship sunk by an Exocet missile in the Falklands.

## Heart boy greets the world

Continued from page 1

to school: "They work me too hard, and I need a rest."

Since he was given the heart of Les Botton, aged nine, who died on August 25 after falling from a tree, he has received about 10 letters from well-wishers, including Les Botton's parents. He has been sent some money which he will save or spend on computer equipment.

Adrian and his parents praised Mr Magdi Vachon, the surgeon who performed the operation.

Mrs Walton told reporters yesterday that no surgeon could have done better. "I am feeling tremendous relief. I don't really remember the last few weeks very well," she said.

After about 20 minutes of questioning, Adrian rejoined his wheelchair to be taken back to the hospital for a routine check-up and the next television news bulletin.

## Baby stabbed

The police are investigating the case of a baby girl who is in a critical condition with stab wounds at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

## Pit talks expected to resume on Sunday

Continued from page 1

a number of speeches at the TUC has recognized that it would be a negotiated settlement and that there was no way of ending the dispute by "other tactics".

Mrs Margaret Thatcher made clear her support for Mr MacGregor yesterday when she told journalists in Livingston, Lothian: "I have great confidence in him."

She added that uneconomic pits had always been closed and they always would. Even the Labour Government in its 1977 Coal Act, put on the statute book by the then Energy Secretary, Mr Tony Benn, had recognized that.

"We are only going to get a sensible industry if management and men get together. It is up to the NCB and the NUM to get together. There will be no government involvement."

The Prime Minister added that the answer to the dispute lay in more people going back to work. "Fortunately, there are many men who are working."

The build-up to the piece talks was somewhat marred yesterday in a new flare-up of

hostility between the two key figures in the conflict.

Mr MacGregor said of Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, that he had been working much too hard, very long hours and "I am concerned about his health."

Asked if he meant physical or mental health, he replied: "Both, indeed yes. The stress must be very great on him." Four days ago Mr Scargill suggested that the coal board chairman needed a long rest.

Last night Mr Scargill said that Mr MacGregor's "silly statement" confirmed that.

"I think Mr MacGregor's actions over the past few days are of such concern not only to me but the whole of my members, that he really ought to seek professional advice."

When Mr MacGregor was asked if he thought that exchanging verbal abuse was constructive, he said: "One has to respond to initiatives of that type. Name calling is one in which I am not usually involved, but one has to respond to repeated initiatives of that type."

## Deliveries of steel threatened

Continued from page 1

Mr Connolly repeated the union's insistence that the ballot was invalid. But it is felt that the union leadership could be forced to change tack if most vote for a return to work.

Ferries between Dover and Europe operated normally yesterday and there were no pickets at the port.

The Hull dockers' strike committee claimed no one crossed picket lines but the port authority said 19 men who reported for work had been given jobs on the quay.

Southampton dockers who had been picketing Felkistow for the two days had gone home. There were no pickets either at the neighbouring port of Ipswich, which was picketed on Wednesday.

The 160 dockers at Harwich navyyard decided at a mass meeting on Wednesday night to continue working, despite a plea by Mr Peter Partridge, Ipswich TGWU district officer, for them to join the strike.

Nato exercise, page 2

## Letter from Lanzhou

## Path to prosperity and pollution

One of China's poorest and most barren provinces is to be used as the link in promoting the development of the country's huge north-western regions, which consist mainly of deserts, mountains and treeless plateaux.

Gansu province, of which Lanzhou is the capital, looks from the air like a massive range of sand-dunes, with only occasional patches of green where the Yellow River snakes down from the fringes of Tibet.

As the starting point of the ancient "silk road" to the Mediterranean, Gansu is a melting pot of races and cultures, the commonest - apart from Han Chinese - being the Chinese Muslims, the men wearing their distinctive white skull caps, and the women a black embroidered headscarf rather than a veil.

Old customs and costumes are fast yielding to the pressures of industrialization. Lanzhou is one of the most polluted cities in China, the odour of hydrogen sulphide becoming almost stifling in the warm evening air.

Local officials say they are "taking measures" to reduce the pollution, but are vague as to what these measures are. Pollution control is still a luxury for rich countries, or so it seems. China has even offered to bury other people's nuclear waste in her north-western deserts, for a healthy sum of money, naturally.

Oil refineries and chemical plants are mainly responsible for the pollution, but domestic coal-burning stoves are big contributors, too. Fortunately Yellow River runs through the city like an arrow, acting like a wind tunnel to clear the air.

The river gets its name from the brownish silt which it bears in huge masses from the west, where sand and soil erosion are a daunting problem.

The Peking Government's answer is: plant more trees. But the peasants have grumbled: "Are we only supposed to plant trees? When do we get to use them?"

Animal dung serves as fuel where there is no coal or wood.

Mr Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Communist Party, visited Gansu last year and came away enthusiastic about the prospects for development of the north-west. He ordered the province to concentrate more on animal

husbandry and meat production. Nonetheless, the provincial authorities are actively seeking investment from capitalist countries to help develop numerous industries related to their own mineral resources.

In a symbolic gesture, Professor Yu Guangyuan, deputy vice-president of the Academy of Social Sciences and one of China's best-known economists, has volunteered for the job of economic adviser to a particular county in Gansu which used to be known as the poorest place in China. He will concurrently advise the provincial government.

The municipal authorities in Lanzhou have made a serious effort to improve and beautify their city. A huge expanse of scrub, shrubs, flowers and willows has been laid out along the south bank of the Yellow River, but unfortunately so far from the centre of town that hardly anyone visits it except at weekends.

The main city park, where an ancient Chinese general is said to have unleashed five dragons by striking the ground, Adorned with his sword, accommodates a primitive circus run by young people from the central China city of Wuzhan, and an educational display of aborted Siamese twins, hairy babies and photographs of hermaphrodites.

Despite this horror-old buildings in traditional style, including a monastery, are being renovated with care. Most impressive is a huge book mart which has been opened in the grounds of an old temple and is effectively the biggest bookshop in China. It is thronged with young people in search of knowledge, and the city museum has an unusually good collection of Han Dynasty bronzes.

None of this may mean much to the wrinkled elderly Muslims selling Islamic food at their little street stalls, where many non-Muslims eat because the food is tasty.

However, the provincial Islamic Council has recently held a meeting to endorse a new constitution for itself and, as in other parts of China where there are Muslims, mosques have been reopened and the faithful are summoned to prayer by a scratchy recording of a muezzin.

David Bonavia

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Gloucester addresses the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools at Trinity College, Cambridge, 11.30.

#### New provincial exhibitions

Paintings by Paul Gopal-Choudhury: Kettles Yard Gallery, Northampton Street, Cambridge, Mon to Sat 12.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until October 14).

#### New London exhibitions

The age of Vermeer and de

Hooch: masterpieces of seventeenth century Dutch genre painting: Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1; Mon to Sun 10 to 6 (until November 18).

Paintings and drawings by Lindsey Adams, Deirdre Edwards and Sally Hargreaves: South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5; Tues to Sat 6, Sun 3 to 6 (until September 27).

Last chance to see

Craftsmen in residence: Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen; 10 to 5 (ends today).

Curwin studio prints: Halesworth

Gallry, Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk; 11 to 5 (ends today).

Talks, lectures

What the Saxons sang, by Dr Mary Berry, Guildhall, Winchester, 8.

Music

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Salisbury Cathedral, 7.30.

Organ recital by Christopher Doornik, St James Church, Wash Lane, Clacton, Essex, 7.45.

Concert by the Weston-super-Mare Youth Orchestra, Wells Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by the Warsaw Inter-University Choir, Belfast Methodist College, 7.30.

### Roads

Midlands and East Angles: A38 Burton on Trent by-pass: Roadworks with contraflow in operation. A24 Gloucester by-pass 5 to 6. Herts: A1000 Luton by-pass: contraflow in operation. A12 Bedford: contraflow in operation. A1000 Luton by-pass: contraflow in operation. A1000 Luton by-pass: contraflow in operation.

Wales and West: A4700 Cardiff by-pass: contraflow in operation. A4700 Cardiff by-pass: contraflow in operation. A4700 Cardiff by-pass: contraflow in operation.

London and South: A205 Dartford by-pass: contraflow in operation. A205 Dartford by-pass: contraflow in operation. A205 Dartford by-pass: contraflow in operation.

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### Food prices

Of the many variety of plums now in the shops, from 20-70p per lb. English Victoria are probably the best buy at 30-35p per lb.

English, Italian and French green-gages, 25-35p, are also good value. Peaches and nectarines are excellent at 6-12p each and 8-20p each respectively. Other good fruit buys: Spanish yellow seedling 30-45p a box; home-produced lamb is a good buy, at 50-60p, according to size, and Kiwifruit, 20-30p each. Discovery Apples, 35-45p, are the best of the English varieties, which include Worcester pears and Tideman Worcester.

Best vegetable buys this week are: English Carrots, 10-18p per lb; courgettes 20-28p, green peppers 40-60p, runner beans 20-30p, cauliflower 25-40p, celery 30-45p a box, and potatoes 8-12p per lb.

Salad ingredients are plentiful, of excellent quality and cheap: round lettuce 16-18p, British iceberg 40-50p, Cress and Weibbs 20-30p.

Home-produced lamb is a good buy, at 50-60p, according to size, and Kiwifruit, 20-30p each. Discovery Apples, 35-45p, are the best of the English varieties, which include Worcester pears and Tideman Worcester.

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